

Free books for schools

Get collecting, boost local schools
Token page 22

FREE BOOKS SCHOOLS

M&S takes to the catwalk

page 9

30p
EVERY WEEKDAY

Today in Inter//face: £100,000 worth of software to be won

Mission to free trapped monitors

SAS ready for rescue in Kosovo

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE EDITOR

A SUBSTANTIAL force of SAS troops is on alert to mount a "high risk" rescue operation in Kosovo if any unarmed international monitors in the Yugoslav province are taken hostage.

The decision to enlist the SAS for hostage-rescue in Kosovo came after Brigadier-General Marcel Valentin, the French commander of Nato's extraction force based in the neighbouring Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, said his 2,300 soldiers would be incapable of carrying out such a specialist operation.

The Government has given its approval for a proposed Nato special forces unit, "several hundred strong", to be led by a senior British officer, and the bulk of the force is to be provided by the SAS, although other countries can contribute if required when an emergency arises.

The SAS sent more than 300 troops to the Gulf War in 1991, but this new operation is expected to be the largest formation of Special Air Service soldiers for a hostage-rescue mission. The hostage-rescue expertise of the Hereford-based SAS is renowned throughout the world, especially after the 1980 Iranian Embassy siege.

If groups of Kosovo-based verifiers from the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) were to be taken hostage either by Serb forces or Kosovo Liberation Army guerrillas, the SAS

would be flown to the region to prepare for a rescue. The OSCE team is currently 750-strong but is building up to a total of 2,000 personnel, many of them military or ex-military. Britain is providing 200.

Although the present Nato extraction force is based in Macedonia, permission has not yet been sought from the Government in Skopje for any further deployments of Nato troops in Macedonian territory. However, it remains the most likely base for a rescue operation.

When Nato began planning late last year for an extraction force to be based in Macedonia, it was always envisaged that a special forces team would be needed if hostages were taken.

Nato sources said that the French-led force, originally to be 1,800-strong but now expanded to 2,300, was never going to be suitably equipped for mounting any operation in a hostile environment.

The sources said it was planned to be a force that could go over the border to evacuate the OSCE verifiers in a "hostile environment" and to carry out medical evacuations. The force is equipped with helicopters and armoured vehicles.

The structure and mandate for the extraction unit was also supposed to provide reassurance to President Milosevic, the Yugoslav leader, that Nato

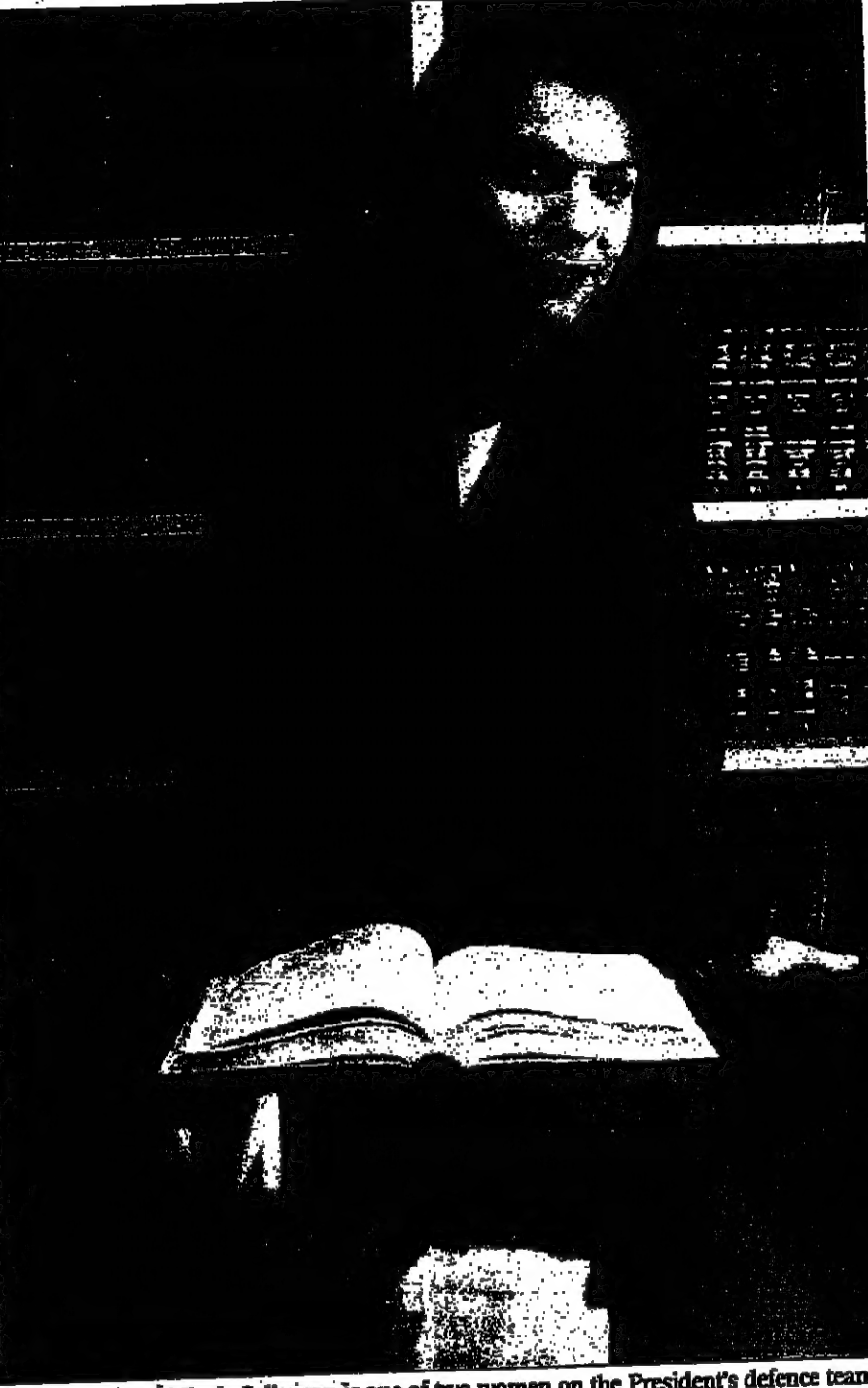
was not building an invasion force, alliance sources said. However, since the massacre of the 45 Albanians by Serb forces, Nato has had to bring forward plans for two other potential military operations.

Apart from the special forces' hostage-rescue team, a third tier is now under consideration which would involve the deployment of between 8,000 and 10,000 Nato troops, including British, to evacuate the whole OSCE verification team from Kosovo if there is all-out war. Nato sources said the large force "would be backed by artillery and ground support aircraft."

If Nato Governments decide to launch strikes to punish Belgrade for the weekend massacre, it is likely that the OSCE verifiers would be told to leave. In the event of any violent opposition to their withdrawal, Nato would have to decide how to guarantee their safety. General Wesley Clark, Nato's supreme allied commander Europe, who met Mr Milosevic in Belgrade yesterday, is expected to brief the North Atlantic Council in Brussels this week on the three-tier proposals.

In the Commons yesterday, Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, said that British aircraft could be mobilised within days should Nato decide to mount airstrikes.

Belgrade warned, page 13
Simon Jenkins, page 18



Secret weapon: Nicole Seligman is one of two women on the President's defence team

Clinton's Ally McBeal takes on the Senators

FROM DAMIAN WHITWORTH IN WASHINGTON

SHE has been dubbed President Clinton's secret weapon. An attractive, high-powered lawyer who will blow away the grey-haired men bent on removing him from office.

As the White House began its defence of Mr Clinton in the impeachment trial last night, the woman nicknamed his Ally McBeal was waiting in the wings.

Nicole Seligman, 42, is one of two women lawyers expected to provide a marked contrast with the 13 Republican prosecutors who presented the case against Mr Clinton. The other, Cheryl Mills, is a brilliant black lawyer who joined Mr Clinton's legal team when he entered the White House.

In reality, depicting Ms Seligman as a real-life Ally McBeal is not entirely accurate. Her attractive looks are matched by an incisive legal brain, but she is far more devastatingly ruthless in court than the television character.

George Stephanopoulos, Mr Clinton's former spokesman, coined the "secret weapon" tag and other Clinton advisers have said they are in awe of her talents. "There's velvet on the outside and there's a hard rock on the inside," said Lanny Davis, a former White House lawyer. "She can be tough and yet she can turn very charming and feminine,

which takes a witness by surprise. So if she doesn't get them one way, she'll get them another," said Brendan Sullivan, who led Oliver North's defence team during the Iran-Contra scandal. Ms Seligman helped to defend Mr North — and in the courtroom was mistaken for his daughter by some commentators. A graduate of Harvard Law School whose best friend is President Kennedy's daughter Caroline Kennedy, she edited the prestigious *Harvard Review* and worked briefly for the *Wall Street Journal* before a stint at the Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court. She then joined Williams & Connolly, where she teamed up with David Kendall, Mr Clinton's chief personal lawyer.

Ms Seligman has worked repeatedly for Mrs Clinton during the Whitewater investigations and for most of last year was working on the Monica Lewinsky affair. She was the only woman present when Mr Clinton gave his Grand Jury testimony via closed circuit television in the White House.

Although Charles Ruff, the chief White House lawyer and a veteran of the Watergate prosecution, opened the defence yesterday, Ms Seligman is expected to play a key role in proceedings. Ms Mills, 33, who knows the Clinton regime

inside out and has been another force behind the scenes, is also expected to take a central role in the Senate chamber, perhaps outlining Mr Clinton's version of events surrounding the retrieval of gifts he had given to Ms Lewinsky.

As the White House tried to assemble a bigger team for a defence presentation, that could take up to the 24 hours allotted, it suffered one setback when Rick Boucher, a Democratic representative, said that he was not available to help. Former Senate majority leader George Mitchell, the chairman of the Northern Ireland peace process, was also mentioned as one who would try to convince the 100 Senators not to convict Mr Clinton on the two articles of impeachment.

The defence strategy is to attack the facts in the prosecution case and insist that even if those facts are true, they do not justify his removal from office because the offences do not rise to the level of "treason, bribery or other high crimes and misdemeanours", the constitutional standard for impeachment and conviction.

Fresh polls yesterday showed that 61 per cent of Americans thought Mr Clinton should not be convicted, while his approval rating remained at 69 per cent.

Prison on cards for Aitken after he admits libel case perjury

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

JONATHAN AITKEN, the former Conservative Cabinet minister, yesterday faced the threat of a lengthy prison sentence after admitting at the Central Criminal Court charges of perjury and perverting the course of justice.

The disgraced former Tory high-flyer confessed to drawing up a false witness statement which he persuaded his teenage daughter, Victoria, to sign to support his lies during his unsuccessful High Court libel action against *The Guardian* and Granada TV.

His civil action in June 1997 centred on the allegation by the newspaper and the TV company that he had stayed at the Ritz Hotel in Paris in 1993 at the expense of prominent Saudi Arabian friends while serving as Minister for Defence Procurement.

Aitken, 56, will be sentenced in June at the conclusion of the trial of his co-defendant and former business associate Said Ayas.

For acts intended to pervert the course of justice, the maximum sentence is life and, for perjury, up to seven years.

Said Ayas has yet to enter pleas to charges of conspiracy to pervert the course of justice, and doing acts tending and intended to pervert the course of justice.

Aitken, of Lord North Street, Westminster, central London, denied two further charges — alleging conspiracy with his ex-wife Lollia and Said Ayas to pervert the course of justice, and doing acts tending and intended to pervert the course of justice.

Crown counsel David Waters accepted those not guilty pleas and the Recorder of London Michael Hyam ordered the two counts to lie on file.

Aitken, who arrived at the



Aitken: will not know his fate until June

Old Bailey with his mother, Lady Aitken, served under John Major, first as Defence Procurement Minister and then as First Secretary to the Treasury, which post he resigned to fight his libel action. When the action collapsed, he was left with a £2 million legal bill.

Aitken, who lost his seat as Tory MP for Thanet, Kent, at the general election, was divorced last year from his wife by whom he has twin daughters.

Continued on Page 4, col 5



"Cheer up — it's not nearly as bad as Jonathan Aitken's"

England are back inside

England were readmitted to the Five Nations rugby union championship less than 24 hours after being expelled from the competition over a television deal. Their opening match against Scotland will go ahead as planned on February 20.

Bae accused

British Aerospace was said to have damaged European co-operation by its £7 billion merger with GEC's Marconi Electronic Systems.

TV & RADIO	42-43
WEATHER	22
CROSSWORDS	22-44
LETTERS	19
OBITUARIES	21
SIMON JENKINS	18
ARTS	33-35
CHESS & BRIDGE	36
COURT & SOCIAL	20
LAW REPORT	32
HOMES	37
BUSINESS	23-27

Public to choose 'people's peers'

By PHILIP WEBSTER AND JAMES LANDALE

THE public is to be given the power to nominate "people's peers" under proposals published today to scrap the rights of hereditary peers to sit and vote in the House of Lords.

People will be able to write to the new independent appointments commission which will choose crossbench peers for the interim House of Lords once hereditary peers are banished to the shires.

Tony Blair has decided that the practice of introducing by John Major of allowing the public to nominate people for honours in the twice-yearly lists should be extended.

The "people's lords" will be those chosen by the commission in addition to peers nominated by political parties. Mr Blair is to give up his power to veto the names put forward by other parties although he will keep the right to say how many should come from each.

The death knell will sound today for the 750 hereditary peers when the Bill abolishing

their voting powers and a White Paper setting up a royal commission to recommend the shape of a new second chamber are published.

They will also lose their "club rights" to use the restaurants and bars at the Lords. Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, said at the weekend that the Bill would mean for the hereditary peerage an end to "living like a lord at the taxpayers' expense". The royal commission, expected to be chaired by Lord Butler of Brockwell, will be asked to report by the end of the year.

The deal that led to the sacking of Viscount Cranborne as Tory leader in the Lords — allowing 91 hereditary peers to survive in the interim stage — will not be included in the Bill, but added as an amendment as it passes through the Lords.

Lord Cranborne will today speak in the Lords for the first time since he was sacked. He is likely to urge peers to accept the deal he secured for them.

Film about 'selfish' du Pré outrages musicians

By SUSIE STEINER

SIX classical musicians, including the cellist Julian Lloyd Webber and the violinist Lord Menuhin, have written to *The Times* today expressing outrage at a new film about the life of Jacqueline du Pré. The film *Hilary and Jackie*, which is to have its premiere today, chronicles the life of du Pré and portrays her as selfish, spoilt and manipulative, according to the musicians. "This is not the Jacqueline du Pré that we, as her friends and colleagues, knew," the letter says.

Mr Lloyd Webber and Lord Menuhin are joined in their anger by Itzhak Perl-

man, William Pleeth, Mstislav Rostropovich and Pinchas Zukerman, all of whom worked with du Pré.

Her solo cello performances, particularly of Elgar, in the 1960s made du Pré famous and inspired Mr Lloyd Webber's own career as a cellist; her early death from multiple sclerosis made her turbulent life a focus for scrutiny.

The film, in which du Pré is portrayed by Emily Watson, focuses on the cellist's affair with her sister's husband Kiffer, which was said to be condoned by Hilary to safeguard her sister's fragile emotional state. Watson has been nominated for a Golden-Globe for her part in the film.

which is based on a book by du Pré's sister and her brother Piers, entitled *A Genius in the Family*.

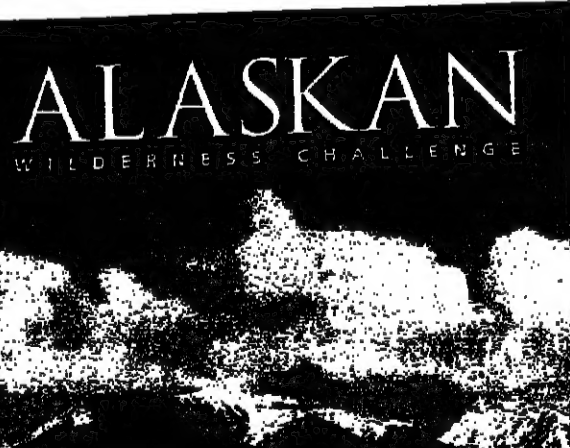
But *Hilary and Jackie* discredits du Pré, according to her supporters. "Jacqueline possessed a wonderful joy in making music and a unique ability to bring that joy to her audience. This is the Jacqueline du Pré that we remember," the letter says.

Lord Menuhin knew du Pré well and his daughters were among her best friends; the violinist Itzhak Perlman also worked closely with her.



du Pré: six defenders

Letters, page 19
Cinema, page 33



ALASKAN
WILDERNESS CHALLENGE

Could you trek for a week in Alaska to raise funds for Deafblind people?

Imagine a landscape covered with snow, capped mountains, fascinating wildlife, glaciers, rivers and lakes — then imagine the opportunity to spend a week trekking through the heart of this wilderness.

You'll only need ten days.

Cost to you: £250

Call us now as places are limited
Departure dates 15th, 22nd, 29th July & 5th August.

For more information call **0870 1290101**



Thing gives Blair a helping Hand from the back benches

A ficionados of the Addams Family movies will be familiar with a creature called Thing. It is a disembodied hand. It scuttles around the Addamses' creepy mansion doing the family's dirty work. Need a tap fixing, a corpse burying, a mess shovelling under the carpet or a cat throttling in the night? Thing will fix it.

Big-suited Gomez Addams, the head of the household, relies implicitly on the Hand. So does his wife, the palely cadaverous Morticia. How Gomez reminds me of Tony Blair.

At Foreign Office Questions yesterday, a Hand appeared, a man's hand, just before the first question on Europe. This sketchwriter could not say whether the Hand was unattached because, were there a body in tow, its owner had placed himself in the least visible spot in the chamber.

Let me explain. The press sits in a balcony over one end of the chamber, arranged like a shallow dress circle above the Speaker's chair. Only the tops of the heads of MPs at this end are visible. The chair

is crowned with a huge canopy, blocking views of the benches beneath and creating a blind spot on one bench on the government side. Its occupant is invisible to almost all the press; invisible to me.

But I could see a Hand. A right Hand. Visible only from the wrist, like Thing.

The Hand appeared some way into Questions yesterday, and settled, fingers fanned, on the edge of the seat. Horrified, I watched it. It seemed to be intently following ministers' answers: tensing, fidgeting, relax-



ing... depending on what they said. No name, no face, but a weird sense of responsibility, control. We have heard of the Minister Without Portfolio (one such, with his Dome, was famous), but now, frezing here on the green leather, seemed to be a Portfolio Without Minister.

And it was with European

policy that the Hand looked most concerned. It missed the exchanges on St Helena, ignored Kosovo, and arrived just in time to hear Norman Godman (Lab. Greenock & Inverclyde) ask about the enlargement of the European Union.

The Hand looked relaxed about a careful reply from the

minister, Joyce Quinn. But when a leftwinger, Jeremy Corbyn (Lab. Islington N) rose, it scratched angrily at the seat panel. Dennis Skinner (Lab. Bolsover) shouted "When does Albania get in?" The Hand scratched harder.

Andrew Mackinlay (Lab. Thurrock) complained that too few members of the Government were visiting the aspirant members of the EU. Fingers on the Hand quivered. Would it like to visit them, representing the Prime Minister? The Tories' Michael

Howard asked a muscular question about joining the euro. The Hand scabbled impatiently on the bench.

Discussion moved to India and Kashmir. The Hand stretched lazily, fingers outstretched and at rest. When immigration, Iraq and the Middle East were raised, the Hand became bored, drumming fingers. When questions turned to "ethics" in foreign policy, the Hand lost interest and curled up.

I glanced at my order paper. Burma, Basra, Nigeria... no

more questions on Europe seemed likely to be reached. Perhaps the Hand had made a similar calculation. It rose into the air above the bench. Then, hovering left toward the door, moved from my vision, hidden by the canopy over the Speaker's chair.

I leapt up. Dashing to a corner from which the Hand's exit might be visible, I strained to see.

Someone was hurrying out. It was Peter Mandelson, pale and tense. The Hand was with him.

Lords to ask Cook for Pinochet dates

Crown argues that immunity cannot cover all crimes, writes Joanna Bale

THE law lords confirmed yesterday that they are to seek clarification from Robin Cook over the date on which General Pinochet was recognised as head of state, in what could be a key piece of evidence.

The move comes amid claims by the Crown Prosecution Service on behalf of Spain that the former dictator could not claim state immunity for some of the crimes alleged against him because they were committed before he took on the role.

As the new panel of seven law lords convened for a second day yesterday, its chairman, Lord Browne-Wilkinson, said: "We discussed it overnight and thought it was desirable to have the Foreign Office's view if they are able to give it. It may or may not be vital, but it would be helpful."

Lord Browne-Wilkinson also asked Alun Jones, QC, for the CPS, to prepare overnight a document outlining his "heavily revised case" alleging that General Pinochet, along with other public officials, was involved in a conspiracy to torture others even before he seized power.

Once again accompanied by the Spanish investigating judge Baltasar Garçon, Mr Jones went on to argue that only a limited number of functions of a head of state were regarded as attracting immunity under international law. He said: "Those functions are con-

BRITAIN'S ONLY 'POLITICAL PRISONER'

Baroness Thatcher has described as "excellent" a pamphlet written by her senior aide which claims that General Pinochet has been "kidnapped" by Britain and is being held as a political prisoner. Dr Robin Harris yesterday launched his pamphlet, *A Tale of Two Chileans: Pinochet and Allende*, at the Howard Hotel in London. Dr Harris denounced the General from all alleged war crimes. Dr Harris was joined by Conservatives including Lord Lamont of Lerwick, Sir Ray Whitney and Nicholas and Ann Winterdon. The launch was attended by supporters who had flown from Chile for the law lords' hearing. Dr Harris said: "Abuses were committed but under whose authority it is not clear. Pinochet saved his country from a Marxist dictatorship."

fined to state visits, signing treaties, and the sending and receiving of diplomats."

If countries chose to give their head of state more functions, they did not merit immunity. "Individual states may allocate other powers to them, but if a person who is head of state holds other portfolios, they are not recognised in international law as the functions of a head of state, and are not therefore functions in respect of which he enjoys immunity after he has retired," Mr Jones said.

He acknowledged that a head of state was widely regarded as enjoying absolute immunity while in power, but the position changed after he left office.

Mr Jones argued that some acts, such as offences against humanity and war crimes, had been recognised as crimes

under international law long before 1973 and the basis of various international conventions covering human rights and abuses of them was clear.

He said: "It must be that, no matter who you are, whether you are a head of state, a government official, a public official, you have individual, personal responsibility in respect of a category of crimes recognised internationally as particularly odious, such as genocide, torture, and taking hostages. Somewhere a line has to be drawn between actions which are the functions of a head of state, and those which are not."

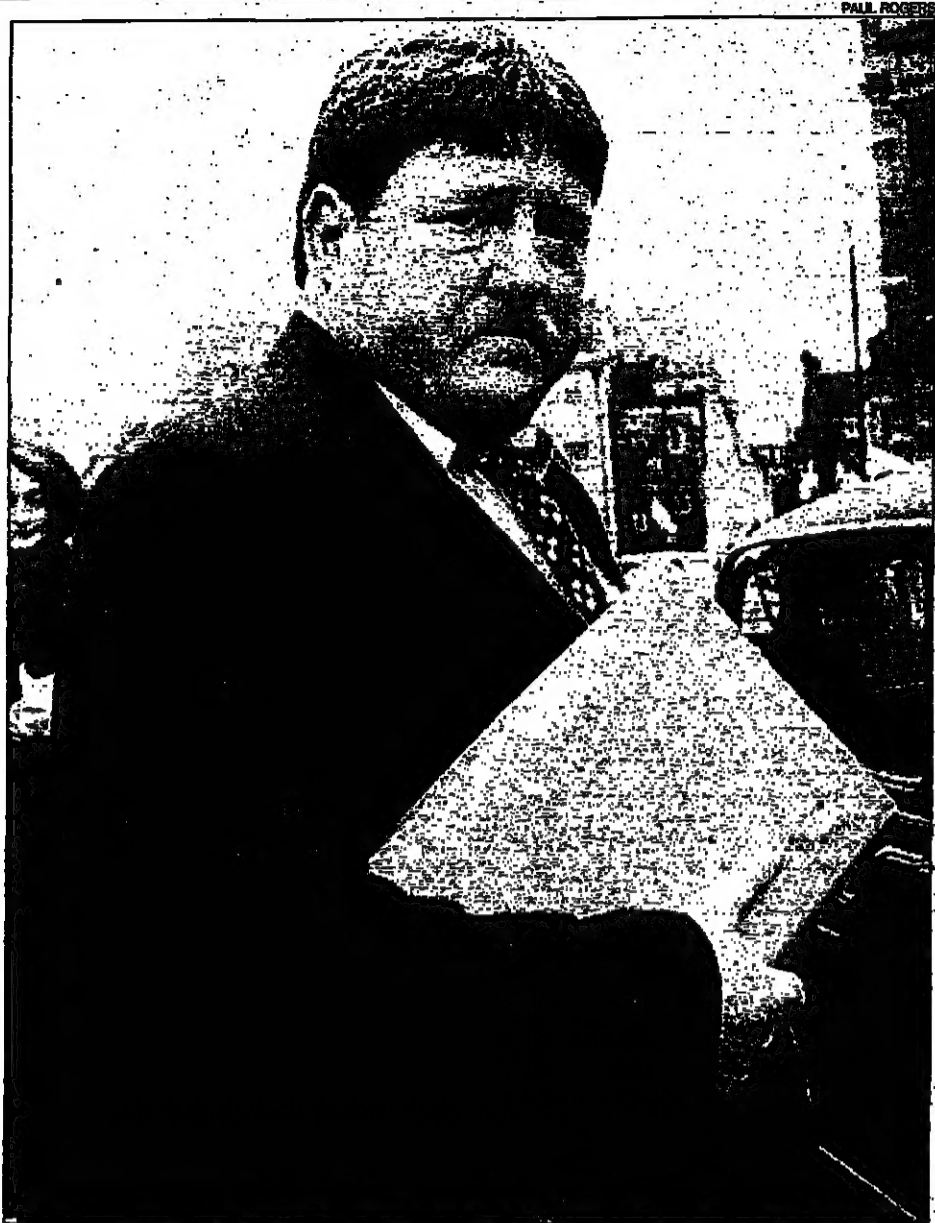
In a situation in which the United Kingdom was declining to put General Pinochet on trial in this country, it had an obligation to extradite him to Spain under the international Convention against Torture,

and under the European Extradition Act, he added. Chile itself, he pointed out, ratified the torture convention in 1988. Its own 1925 constitution forbade the use of torture.

Professor Christopher Greenwood, dealing with the legal issues raised by the Spanish extradition request, then addressed the question of whether national courts, such as those of Spain, had jurisdiction over internationally recognised crimes. He said that, as yet, there was no international tribunal at which to try people accused of such crimes. But he told the law lords that there was "the very clearest guidance" that, certainly since the Second World War, national courts had increasingly been asserting jurisdiction over crimes such as torture.

Last November, a different panel of law lords ruled that the former dictator was not immune, but that decision was set aside when it was held that the link of one of the judges, Lord Hoffmann, with Amnesty International, should have disqualified him from sitting.

Among those present at the new hearing, which continues today, is Mario Artaza, the Chilean Ambassador. He has been sent back to London to ensure that his Government's case is properly presented. He was recalled to Santiago last month in protest at the Home Secretary's decision to allow extradition proceedings.



William Cuthbert leaving the Commons after appearing before MPs yesterday

Bitter pill for GP as he is 'named and shamed'

BY VALERIE ELLIOTT, WHITEHALL EDITOR

THE first GP to be "named and shamed" before MPs yesterday admitted that he felt guilty about his treatment of a dying elderly woman who was unable to swallow her pain-killing morphine tablets.

William Cuthbert, who is a family doctor in Wolverhampton, expressed deep remorse as he appeared yesterday before the Commons Public Administration Select Committee. A complaint against him by the daughter of the woman, who died within 24 hours, was upheld by the Health Services Ombudsman in his first case questioning a doctor's clinical judgment.

Dr Cuthbert took a coach from Wolverhampton to attend yesterday's 11am hearing but it arrived late. The hearing was adjourned until 11.30am when the GP arrived red-faced and clearly embarrassed by his delay.

Michael Buckley, the ombudsman, told MPs he believed that the doctor's behaviour "fell well short of the professional service which the patient and her family had a right to expect".

Dr Cuthbert spoke candidly

about his poor relationship with the dying woman's daughter and admitted that this was why he almost treated her call "with a pinch of salt". He said that the experience had made him more vigilant. "I now look out for banana skins."

The episode began on a Saturday morning - June 22, 1997. Dr Cuthbert was shopping when he was contacted by his out-of-hours message service to say that Mrs X, his patient's daughter, said her mother could not swallow her morphine tablets and could they have a syringe-driver, which acts like a drip to deliver drugs.

Mrs X said she also told the message service she had been in contact with the local hospice which was willing to lend her a syringe-driver if the doctor gave it a telephone call authorising the assistance.

Dr Cuthbert said he was never told about the offer from the hospice but admitted that the daughter was "particularly demanding" and often said that her mother was unable to do something or needed a particular piece of appara-

tus, when she did not. "I suppose I did almost take the call with a pinch of salt because she was complaining about a lot of things her mother couldn't do. It's possible that it could have clouded my judgment."

"I feel guilty. I feel I could have done better, but I feel there was a poor lack of communication." He apparently told the telephoneist to tell the family they would have to "manage somehow" through the weekend - a phrase, Dr Cuthbert denied using.

Mrs X called the out-of-hours service again that day and the on-call locum visited the house and gave the patient a morphine injection, but she died the next morning.

Ronnie Campbell, Labour MP for Blyth Valley, said: "If you knew the patient was seriously ill and in great pain, when you got that sort of message, don't you think it would have been your duty to go and see the patient straight away?"

Dr Cuthbert said: "With hindsight, yes." He added that he had since apologised to Mrs X several times.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Labour MP leaves wife of 30 years

A Labour MP has left his wife of 30 years for another woman. Denis Murphy, the member for the Northumberland constituency of Wansbeck, admitted yesterday that he had been involved in a relationship with Grace Boyle for "some time". Before being elected in 1997, Mr Murphy, 49, led the controlling Labour group on Wansbeck District Council, where Miss Boyle works in the administration department.

Last October David Clelland, the Labour MP for Tyne Bridge, confirmed that he had left his wife of 33 years, Maureen, after admitting a relationship with his secretary, Brenda Graham.

Millennium call

The millennium celebrations should begin with Midnight Mass at Christmas rather than on December 31, Cardinal Basil Hume, the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Westminster, said. "The crib will always be more important than the Dome," he told an inter-denominational service.

Law overturned

The European Court has overturned a Greek criminal law, ruling it incompatible with the Treaty of Rome. The judges acknowledged that in principle criminal laws were for nations alone, but Greece could not expect convicted drug users for life as that breached freedom of movement for EU citizens.

Lawrence action

The second-in-command of the Stephen Lawrence murder inquiry will face disciplinary action despite announcing his retirement, the Metropolitan Police said last night. Detective Inspector Ben Bullock, 49, will go before a tribunal on March 22. He has been accused of neglect of duty.

Royal E-mail



The Royal Mail launched its first stamp with a flat rate to send letters across the Continent and beyond. The stamp, above, costs 30p and is valid from Britain to more than 50 countries, including Tajikistan and Bosnia-Herzegovina. The price is replaced by a small E in the bottom left-hand corner.

Inner-city schools criticised by Blair

BY HANNAH BEITS

TONY BLAIR was criticised yesterday for undermining teachers after he said he understood parents who refused to send their children to inner-city schools.

Head teachers accused him of giving parents licence to ignore their local comprehensive schools.

Mr Blair's comments came days after it was announced that the Blair's youngest child, Kathryn, is to follow her two brothers by attending a secondary school several miles from the family home.

Speaking on BBC Radio 4's *Today*, Mr Blair said: "When I look at some of the inner-city schools it is no wonder parents feel they have to move their children out." Mr Blair later reinforced his condemnation of inner-city schools in a debate with teachers on the Government's new £60 million performance-related pay scheme.

The Prime Minister told teachers at Moulsham High School in Chelmsford, Essex: "I know from my own experience that there's not enough understanding in this country of the fundamental importance of getting the system right."

John Dunford, general secretary of the School Heads' Association, said: "This is the sort of self-fulfilling prophecy that makes it difficult for schools to succeed in the inner cities. The Prime Minister should be leading the state education system, not undermining it."

Wales may lose voice in Cabinet

BY VALERIE ELLIOTT, WHITEHALL EDITOR

WALES could lose its voice at the Cabinet table after the creation of the Welsh assembly. The end of the office of Welsh Secretary was signalled yesterday at a meeting of the Commons Welsh Affairs Select Committee.

Rachel Lomax, Permanent Secretary at the Welsh Office, hesitated when she was asked by Julian Lewis, a Conservative MP, whether she would join him in a bet that there would be a Secretary of State within ten years. "All sorts of things could happen in ten years," she said.

Her reticence was not lost on MPs and Alun Michael, the Welsh Secretary, said: "The really interesting job is that of First Secretary in the assembly. The role of Secretary of State will develop."

Tacit admission that the role of Welsh Secretary was under threat was seized on by Oppo-

sition MPs who believe that Tony Blair's plans for devolution could lead to the break-up of the United Kingdom. Rod Richards, leader of the Welsh Conservative Party, said: "This has let the cat out of the bag. This just shows that the office of Secretary of State is on death row."

Suspensions were heightened by news that only 24 civil servants will work for the Welsh Secretary after devolution, while 1,800 officials will work for the assembly which is to cost £120 million in its first year.

Ms Lomax insisted that after the assembly elections on May 6 the Welsh Secretary would still have to be responsible for any primary legislation at Westminster, would sit in the Cabinet, attend Cabinet committees, and represent Wales in any European negotiations.

Fair Banking

When things are tight, we're not. No arrangement or monthly fees on our authorised overdrafts.

And what's more, if you switch your account from another bank you'll receive a four month interest-free overdraft, so there's no danger of upsetting your cash flow.

To apply for an Abbey National Bank Account or to find out more, call us Monday to Friday 8am to 9pm, or Saturday 8am to 4pm, or drop into your local branch.

0800 731 7774



ABBEY NATIONAL

Because life's complicated enough.

Fair Banking

www.abbeynational.co.uk

To assist us in improving our service, we may record or monitor telephone calls. The Abbey National Bank Account is subject to status. Overdrafts are only available to Abbey National Bank Account holders, subject to status, and are not available to persons under the age of 18. Written questions are available on request. After the initial interest free period, interest will be payable at the standard variable rate, currently 13.4% APR on authorised overdrafts. APR is variable. Overdrafts are repayable at any time in accordance with our Personal Banking Conditions. Abbey National, the three-towered castle symbol and Abbey National are trademarks of Abbey National plc. Abbey House, 100, Broad Street, London W1P 6DT. United Kingdom.

TV cha
guest e
in the

Chipperfield
chimp till i

Jobcentre bans
for Full Monty

مركز من لامل

THE TIMES WEDNESDAY JANUARY 20 1999

TV chat show guest ends up in the dock

Viewer says man she saw chatting to Richard and Judy is a removal conman. Adam Fresco reports

A WEALTHY businesswoman who turned on her television to watch the Richard and Judy chat show, recognised their guest as a removal man who had driven off with £60,000 worth of her possessions six years earlier, a court was told yesterday.



Parsons denies playing any part in the theft

Pamela McMahon had been moving home with the help of John Parsons in 1992 when he allegedly stole a haul including gold rings, necklaces and other items studded with precious stones valued at £30,000, her prized collection of china and crystal, a new hi-fi system and a number of antique paintings, none of which was insured.

Miss McMahon, an American, first spotted Mr Parsons, who at the time called himself Damien West, a few months later, but was too scared to approach him, Southwark Crown Court was told. She thought that she would never see him again.

help her to move, she said. He hired a van and began loading her belongings. Miss McMahon said that on the day of the move, her suspicions were aroused because he seemed to be acting differently.

"I had the feeling something had gone wrong - it seemed that things were not going to any plan he might have and he seemed a bit agitated."

Nevertheless, she allowed him to finish loading and they drove together to Chelsea. Mr Parsons carried a box of china up in the first-floor flat and suggested that she start unpacking while he parked in a better place, she said. About ten minutes later, she noticed that her handbag containing her wallet, keys and credit cards was missing from the table where she had left it.



Pamela McMahon says that she lost jewellery, china and other items worth £60,000

Police worker 'took indecent photographs'

By Russell Jenkins

A PHOTOGRAPHER employed by the police to take pictures of victims of crime took indecent photographs of a woman who alleged that she had been battered, a court was told yesterday.

Peter Sayward, 43, of Lytham, Lancashire, should have seen the 24-year-old woman, who had reported an assault by her boyfriend, at Blackburn police station and confined his attention to bruises on her face, nose and hands.

But he went to her home where he insisted on touching her intimately in order to take photographs of her breasts, and joked about selling the results for a "Page 3" slot.

The woman, who cannot be named for legal reasons, said that Mr Sayward asked to see any other marks on her body but she told him there was none. However, he asked her to lift her pyjama top and her crop top. She told the court: "I just did what he told me to."

As soon as Mr Sayward left the woman complained to a neighbour and then to police. Several further allegations of indecent assault emerged as a result of a subsequent inquiry into his work.

Mr Sayward spent 18 years in the Merseyside force before retiring and joining the Lancashire Constabulary as a civilian scenes-of-crime photographer. He has pleaded not

guilty to three charges of indecent assault.

Chris Knight, for the prosecution, said that Mr Sayward visited the woman in January last year to take straightforward photographs of her injuries. Instead he took "completely unacceptable photographs" of the woman, including a full-frontal view of her exposed breasts.

He steered the conversation towards sex and sought to cuddle or embrace her under the guise of trying to placate her, though she showed no signs of distress.

He also got her to change into the pyjamas she was wearing at the time of the attack, then physically examined her.

The court was told how Mr Sayward photographed another woman assault victim in August 1997. The 23-year-old woman had suffered bruising to her thigh and went to a police station for photographs to be taken. Mr Sayward photographed her with her skirt hitched above her underpants and felt the bruising in an indecent manner.

The third incident involved the 23-year-old's mother. During a visit to the victim's house, Mr Sayward gathered coins that had fallen from the mother's blouse pocket and had brushed his hand against her breast while placing them back.

The trial continues.

Chipperfield 'beat chimp till it cried'

By Helen Johnstone

A MEMBER of the Chipperfield circus dynasty was secretly filmed forcing a sick elephant to perform pirouettes and beating other animals, a court was told yesterday.

The offences alleged against Mary Chipperfield were uncovered when animal-welfare activists infiltrated the farm that she and her husband, Roger Cawley, own in Hampshire and secretly filmed there for several months.

Miss Chipperfield, 61, who appeared before Andover Magistrates' Court yesterday under her married name, Mary Cawley, denies 21 charges relating to animal cruelty and neglect of circus animals between October 1997 and January 1998. Mr Cawley, 64, and joint proprietor of Mary Chipperfield Promotions Ltd, denies seven charges.

The case had originally been brought by the Animal Defenders charity in a civil action but the Crown Prosecution Service took it over after the campaigners produced their

evidence. Miss Chipperfield told police that her treatment of the animals was justified to discipline them and she would begin the same way again.

There were gasps from the public gallery as the court was shown footage of a trainer employed by Miss Chipperfield striking an elephant 12 times around the legs and back with a metal rod. One clip showed her briefly watching.

Charles Gabb, for the prosecution, said the evidence suggested that, to the couple, "the ends of training the animals justify the means". He said that in 1997, Terry Stocker, a member of Animal Defenders, had taken up work at the farm caring for the animals, which included tigers, lions, elephants, bears and camels. He set up three video cameras and carried a body camera.

Another group member, Rachel White, posed as his girlfriend. Video film that they handed to police showed an incident in which Miss Chipperfield beat an 18-month-old

chimpanzee called Trudi after it refused to get into its cage.

Mr Gabb told the court: "She used a riding crop to beat the chimp. She also kicked it. It shows manifest cruelty by this lady to beat it almost mercilessly and when she leaves it to remove its discomfort, an orange ball. You can hear the pitiful, pathetic cries of the chimp and Mrs Cawley is heard to say 'You can bloody cry'."

She was alleged to have kicked a camel to get it to stand up, and when that failed to have beaten it with a stick. She is alleged to have whipped other camels on the back and underbelly with a stick to try to make them walk in a line round the farm's parade ring.

Magistrates heard that Miss Chipperfield made an elephant called Flora perform pirouettes in the ring when it was unwell. Mr Gabb said: "The elephant did not respond to Mrs Cawley's commands. So Mrs Cawley goes up with no reason and whacks it with a very large piece of wood." He said the animals led a miserable existence in which they were shackled for long periods.

Mr Stocker told the court that he had seen Miss Chipperfield hit the chimpanzee 20 times with the crop in a frenzied beating. She kicked it ten times. "It was a severe beating. I went back the next day and saw red marks on Trudi's body, which I photographed."

The stipendiary magistrate, Roger House, was shown footage of Stephen Gills, a trainer employed by the Cawleys, beating elephants with a spade and an iron bar. The court was told that the couple knew that he was violent and cruel to their animals. The trial continues.



Mary Chipperfield and her husband, who deny the charges

Jobcentre bans adverts for Full Monty troupe

By Simon De Bruxelles

A SUCCESSFUL group of Full Monty-style male strippers has been banned from advertising for new recruits in jobcentres.

The dancers, who perform under the name Centaur and were the subject of a BBC documentary last year, need new members for a nationwide tour. No qualification or experience are required, but striking visuals need not apply.

Despite offering the successful candidates between £75 and £100 a day, the adverts for "revue dancers" have fallen foul of a Depart-

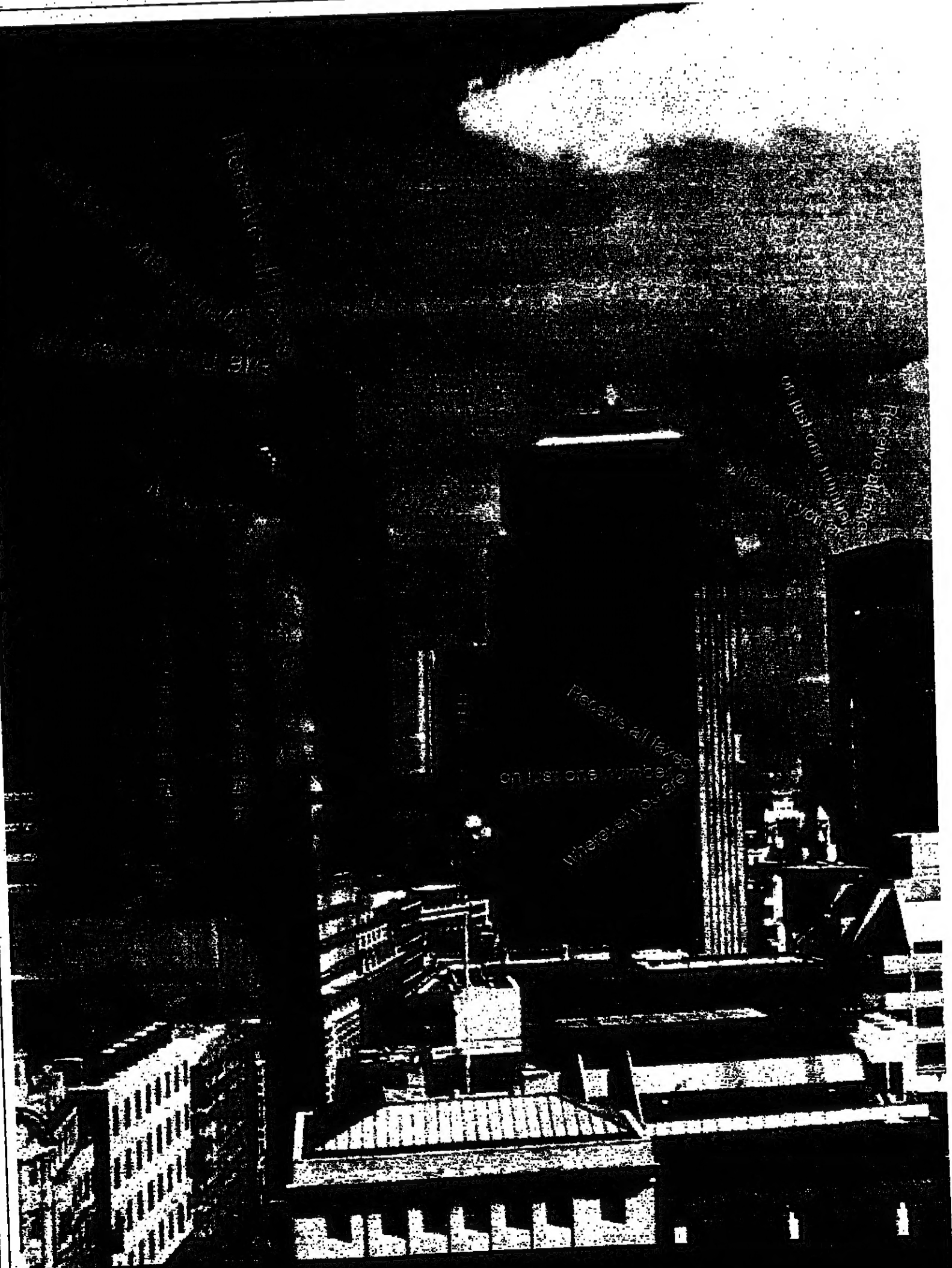
ment of Employment ban on jobs in the "sex industry".

In the film *The Full Monty* a group of unemployed men from Sheffield meet at their local job club, decide to take up stripping, and become an overnight sensation. The job club's success is unlikely to be emulated in Centaur's home town, Swansea, where jobcentre managers rigidly abide by the rules.

Centaur's manager, Ritchie Rees, a 34-year-old married father of five, was turned away by both of his local jobcentres, which refused to help find three

more strippers to join the four-man team. Mr Rees, who began stripping for a living six years ago, said: "One of the officials was a woman who recognised me from the shows. I thought they were prudes. People are meant to be a bit more open-minded these days."

A Department of Employment spokesman said yesterday: "We are not taking a moral stand or making a value judgement on these jobs. It is just that we do not want to put our clients in a position where they might feel embarrassed or humiliated."



At Orange we believe that no matter where you are in the world you should never be out of reach. Orange Answer Fax is your own personal fax service. It allows you to receive all faxes on one number, and then collect them on the nearest fax machine whenever it's convenient for you. For more information on Answer Fax or other Orange innovations call 0800 323 000. The future's bright. The future's Orange.

www.orange.co.uk/answerfax

TRAVEL INFORMATION

Judges free man jailed for 14 years

Corruption charges against Yard detectives lead to appeal ruling, reports Stewart Tandler

A MAN serving 14 years in prison for armed robbery was freed by the Court of Appeal yesterday as a result of criminal charges brought against Scotland Yard detectives.

George Ellis, 37, from East London, had claimed during his trial that a Flying Squad officer had planted false evidence against him.

The court was told that 25 members of the same squad — who cannot be named for legal reasons — could no longer be witnesses in the case because they had either been charged or suspended, or would have been suspended if they had not retired. None of those charged had yet been tried. More members of the unit might be tainted by the allegations and would risk cross-examination if used as witnesses.

Mr Ellis was cleared of taking part in a £37,500 robbery three years ago. One of the 25 police officers charged was a key officer in Mr Ellis's trial.

John Kelsey-Fry, for the Crown, told the court that new evidence had emerged from two former members of the squad who were now helping Scotland Yard's drive against corruption. As a result, the Crown would not fight the appeal. The two informers would



George Ellis with his son George. He said yesterday: "I am devastated by what has happened and I plan to sue"

eventually be witnesses. None of the corruption allegations had been proved but at the moment the Crown could not use the 25 as witnesses of truth. He said the prolonged investigations into the allegations of dishonesty would take time but it would be wrong to delay Mr Ellis's appeal.

The court was told that Mr Ellis, who was cleared of another armed robbery charge by the court eight years ago,

was convicted largely on the evidence that DNA tests showed that a sample of his saliva matched saliva traces on a bandana worn by a robber.

Stephen Kamlish, for Mr Ellis, said at the trial that there were allegations that the saliva had been planted on the bandana. The officer was called from another part of London to collect the saliva. He went on his own to do a routine job normally done by

a non-specialist officer. At the trial he could not explain why he had been called. Mr Kamlish said: "It raises the suspicion he was up to no good."

Quashing Mr Ellis's conviction, Lord Justice Rose, sitting with Mr Justice Maurice Kay and Sir Patrick Russell, said that the Flying Squad officer now charged was "a highly material witness" in the trial. The saliva was found in a bag thrown away by one of the

robbers with £34,000 of the cash. The other £3,500 has never been recovered. Police said one of the robbers escaped with the cash. He was arrested later. The defence claimed the police took the money.

Lord Rose said the officer who collected the saliva had now been charged with dishonesty. Mr Ellis had suggested he had planted the saliva. In the light of subsequent events the conviction could no longer

be upheld. Lord Rose said. There was no suggestion there should be a retrial. The court ordered a retrial for Tony Zamparelli, 34, convicted with Mr Ellis and jailed for 12 years.

Outside court, Mr Ellis called on Scotland Yard to scrap the Flying Squad. He said he had been wrongly convicted twice and sentenced to a total of 27 years in prison. "I am devastated by what has happened and I plan to sue."

Lightning hit twice for 'vendetta victim'

By Stewart Tandler, Crime Correspondent

GEORGE ELLIS might have felt a sense of déjà vu yesterday as he left the Court of Appeal after being freed from his 14-year jail sentence. Eight years ago the court quashed another armed robbery conviction against him also brought by Scotland Yard's Flying Squad.

Mr Ellis, who has been on bail since last autumn, believes that he was the victim of a police vendetta and corruption. He admits that he is no angel: he had started a career of crime by the age of 11. But his only record for armed robbery was 18 years ago and he pleaded guilty.

His present troubles began in 1987 when he was arrested near the scene of an £8,000 bank robbery. His first trial collapsed after the jury was given copies of papers used by his lawyer including his record. The second trial went ahead and he was jailed for seven years before his lawyers were told that an officer's prints had been found on the papers. In 1991 he won an appeal.

"I thought that after that there was no way they would come after me," he said. Then 2½ years ago he was arrested

in Woodford, East London, four miles from the scene of a £37,500 robbery.

The case rested on saliva samples matched to a bandana worn by one of the robbers. He claimed the sample could have been smeared on the bandana.

Once again there was retrial. This time someone had walked past two of the first jury and told them they should acquit. Mr Ellis claims the police wanted to stop the trial because his case was going too well. At a second trial he and two other men were convicted.

Inside prison, Mr Ellis heard of the first arrests by Scotland Yard in its anti-corruption drive and asked his lawyer to check whether any of the officers in his case were involved. Nine months later he was told the Crown Prosecution Service would not fight an appeal. One of the officers faced corruption charges.

Mr Ellis, of Bethnal Green, East London, said: "I am sick. I have served 2½ years for something I have not done. I have no confidence in the corruption drive. Give it a couple of years and they will still be up to the same thing."

Bristol inquiry 'is not a trial'

By Ian Murray, Medical Correspondent

AN INQUIRY into the high death rate among child heart patients at Bristol Royal Infirmary is intended to identify minimum acceptable standards for operations and best practice for carrying them out. Ian Kennedy, the inquiry chairman, said: "It will not be a trial. We are not seeking to apportion blame. We are aiming to discover what happened in Bristol, why it happened, and seeing if there are lessons to be learned which will benefit the NHS as a whole."

The inquiry was ordered by Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, after a General Medical Council hearing severely criticised two surgeons for continuing to perform complex operations on babies, even though they knew too many of them were dying.

The chief executive of the hospital trust, who was also a doctor, was condemned for failing to use his authority to stop

the operations, although he had been alerted to what was happening.

The GMC hearing was restricted to 59 cases of babies on whom two types of operation were performed between February 1988 and January 1995. The public inquiry is to examine hundreds of operations of different types performed on infants between 1984 and 1995.

The GMC struck off James Wisheart, the senior consultant, and John Roylance, chief executive of the hospital trust. Jahardan Dhasmana, the other consultant surgeon, was banned from operating on children for three years and was later dismissed from his job.

Mr Roylance, the only one of the three to appeal against the GMC decision, yesterday lost an attempt to force the council to hand over a transcript of the private deliberations between members about the case.

Smear test errors 'hit confidence'

By Richard Duce

PUBLIC confidence in cancer screening for women has been dented by blunders at a Kent hospital which falsely gave the all-clear to hundreds of patients, a professor told the High Court yesterday.

Thomas Krausz was called as an expert witness for three women who developed cancer and are now infertile after screeners at the Kent and Canterbury Hospital failed to notice abnormal cells during routine smear tests.

Professor Krausz, an honorary consultant at Hamman-Smith Hospital in West London, said that after checking the slides himself he believed that the screeners should have spotted the abnormalities.

Sandra Penney, 36, Helen Palmer, 36, and Lesley Cannon, 39, are seeking to prove that the East Kent Health Authority is liable. The hearing at Canterbury continues today.



That's another year off to a flying start.

47 international destinations, the latest in-flight entertainment and one of the youngest fleets in the sky.

Not to mention food, wine and service that has helped us win over 150 international awards.

And now we've just been voted Airline Of The Year by OAG Worldwide.

As that's for the second year running, once again we'd just like to say thank you.



Emirates

BE GOOD TO YOURSELF. FLY EMIRATES.

OVER 150 INTERNATIONAL AWARDS, 47 INTERNATIONAL DESTINATIONS. FOR DETAILS CALL EMIRATES ON 0870 245 2222. WWW.EMIRATES.CO.UK

ROSS
ER
d savings
anteed
future,
ates is a
the past.

BANK OF SCOTLAND
0500 804 804

So which three films are simply the best?

BY DALYA ALBERGE
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

"This is a tremendous idea, since we are celebrating 100 years of cinema, to celebrate it at the time of the millennium," he said. "We want to poll the whole of the UK... We want votes from the people who real-



Attenborough: "Which made you laugh, cry or scream?"

When he first saw *The Gold Rush*, at the London Pavilion in Piccadilly in the early 1930s, it was "a picture that bowled

A list of the top 100 will be drawn up and announced in July. The deadline for entries is May 31. They may be sent by post to Millennium Movie Vote, PO Box 1803, London NW1 8NQ; by phoning 06-678877; through Woolworth stores; or on the Internet: <http://www.sky.co.uk/vote/>



Director's top three: Chaplin's *Gold Rush*, Brando in *On the Waterfront* and Spielberg's *Schindler's List*



Sickness Benefit.

It would be the country.
The Association of the
British Pharmaceutical Industry
12 Whitehall London SW1A 2DT

CHOSEN BY THE STARS

[illegible]

David Logan: following Tarantino's route to stardom.

Scriptwriter pens own success story

BY DALYA ALBERGE

The script is to be made into a \$6 million film for Colum-

"He's one of the hottest things in Hollywood."

Coronavirus Tax

Savings on state benefits

Earnings from exports

Reduced hospital costs

Research & development

TAKE CARE OF AN INDUSTRY THAT TAKES CARE OF BRITAIN

KENYA SAFARIS

As the UK's premier safari operator we offer the largest range of safaris in Kenya from a 3-day 'Flying Safari' to a 12-day 'Taj Mahal Safari'.

5-night 'Thorn Tree Safari' from £679.
Extensions available to Kenya's coast, Zanzibar and the Seychelles.

Egypt/Kenya combinations. Full Tailormade service.
Ground and departures and window seats on safari.

Somak
HOLIDAYS
STARTING AFTER

For a brochure packed with exciting
holiday choices - please call
0181 423 300

Punishment gang's brutal 'life sentence'

Martin Fletcher meets a man who paid dearly for giving his friend a lift

ANDREW PEDEN has two stumps where his legs used to be. They were both amputated after he was "kneecapped" last year.

He is still racked by pain. His three young children are deeply traumatised. His friends cannot face him. His wife, Linda, has to carry him up the stairs on her back, lift him onto the toilet or into the bath, and endure his agony each night as he relives the attack in his fitful sleep.

When she goes out she sees the men who committed this evil walking about the streets. "It's wrecked our family," she said. "It's just a living nightmare."

Mr Peden is one of 256 victims of paramilitary beatings or shootings in Northern Ireland over the past 13 months. Andrew Hunter, the Conservative MP for Basingstoke, has said that today in the House of Commons he will perhaps name some of the men responsible.

The aim is to draw attention to these blatant breaches of the Good Friday accord by loyalist and republican paramilitaries whose political representatives sit with impunity in the

Province's new Assembly. Yesterday, Ronnie Flanagan, the RUC chief constable, urged MPs not to identify those allegedly involved in paramilitary attacks as it could prejudice future criminal proceedings.

Andrew Mackay, the shadow Northern Ireland Secretary, said: "These cases prove to me that some of those who signed the accord have not renounced violence. We believe the Government is not ac-

Sinn Féin in the talks to make them work." Mrs Peden said: "They should take someone like Andrew in to tell his story."

Mr Peden's "crime" was to give a friend who was a member of the paramilitary Ulster Defence Association a lift home from a pub one night last May. After he left, the UDA man ordered the beating of an Ulster Volunteer Force member who was having an

tortured him for ten hours and told him to write a last letter to his children.

By 10pm Mr Peden was barely conscious, but he remembers them dragging him onto some open land and telling him to lie down. They then shot him in both legs with a shotgun and left without calling an ambulance. "They meant me to die," he said.

Mrs Peden heard the blasts, but did not make the connection. She received two mysterious telephone calls, and it was past midnight before the police arrived to tell her the news. At the hospital the doctors told her that her husband had little chance of living. The blood poured out as fast as they pumped it into him, and he twice suffered heart failures on the operating table.

They managed to stabilise his condition enough to be able to amputate his left leg one week later. A few weeks later they had to amputate his mangled right leg, and again he nearly died from loss of blood. He was in hospital for seven months and still returns daily. He sees a psychiatrist and psychologists four times a week and a nurse comes daily



Andrew Peden with his 12-year-old son, Drew. Mr Peden's legs were amputated after he was beaten and shot

to change his dressings because his left stump remains "like raw steak".

Mr Peden, who is 35 and worked in an electrical wholesaler, used to take his children out camping, fishing or playing football. Now he sits propped up on the sofa or moves round the house "on my bum" while he awaits artificial limbs.

His 15-year-old son, Gary,

will not talk about the attack and can hardly look at his father. Drew, 12, is consumed by anger and receiving psychiatric help. "He says 'Mummy, a dog wouldn't do that to another dog'," Shaunie, aged five, still believes that her father fell down the stairs and "wishes Santa had left Daddy another pair of legs for Christmas".

The Pedens have received no compensation and have ap-

plied for a new house away from Belfast. Mrs Peden has given up her job to nurse her husband round the clock. "I don't know what it's like having a night's sleep," she said. "He cries out every night for help. He relives it every night. If he gets an hour's sleep that's it. It's wrecked our family."

She knows the men who attacked her husband, and sees them when she shops. "When

they see me they drop their heads or go to the other side of the street," she said. "They are ashamed. They are just evil men. I just hope God repays them."

Mr Peden's body has been broken, but not his will. "I have to come to terms with it. What's keeping me going is Linda and the kids. My goal is to walk down that path with my child. I know I will do it."

Winter blues brighten up

By IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

RELIEF could soon be at hand for sufferers of Seasonal Affective Disorder, the winter condition that induces lethargy, listlessness and depression.

Scientists believe that bright electric lights are the best treatment for the condition, which the Ancient Greeks described. Chris Thompson, the head of the Mental Health Group at the South Hampshire Hospital, said there was a simple chemical explanation. The pineal gland, in the brain, secretes the hormone melatonin

during the hours of darkness. Melatonin, in excess, has a depressing effect on some people.

Although no more than one person in 20 suffers from Sad symptoms, nine out of ten find that they have minor changes in energy, appetite or weight during the winter months.

Professor Thompson said that trials had shown that Sad responds to treatment with bright artificial light. This tricked the pineal gland into thinking there was enough daylight around to stop pro-

ducing melatonin and no excess built up.

Normal lighting is too dim to make much impact, but new "bright lights" with an output similar to summer daylight can satisfy the pineal gland in an hour or so. However, the lights are not cheap: Philips has just marketed its Original Bright Light for £199. Turn it down and you can use it as an ordinary table light.

For best results the light has to be used early in the day: either at the breakfast table or on the office desk.

New Lad comes up smelling of roses

Mark Henderson reports on how men are being transformed by a cosmetic encounter

BRITISH men have learnt to love the bathroom and are reaching for the moisturiser as never before, the latest comprehensive survey of consumer trends has found. Despite his scruffy, smelly image, it is the lager-swilling, loaded-drinking "New Lad" who is largely responsible for the trend.

The annual *British Lifestyles* report, published today by the market researcher Mintel, confirms that expensive cosmetics and fragrances are no longer a luxury for women alone and identifies older teenagers and twentysomethings as those most likely to "take an interest in their appearance, grooming and health". Sales of male moisturisers and exfoliants, after-shave and shaving products have dou-

bled since 1988 and were last year worth a record £800 million.

The number of male grooming products has mushroomed as cosmetics firms exploit a lucrative new market with advertising campaigns led by glamorous footballers such as David Beckham and Jamie Redknapp.

Paul Rickard, Mintel's head of research, said: "There has clearly been an easing of the reluctance factor which most men have traditionally felt." Mintel predicts that the market will continue to grow, as older men

who are still reluctant to use toiletries are replaced by those who are younger and less inhibited.

Boots said that sales had risen by 10 per cent in the past year, and that men were now likely to buy skincare products and upmarket scents as well as the shaving creams and shower gels that have long been part of the market.

The report also offers further evidence of the power of the "Delia effect" on eating habits. It says that, despite huge increases in sales of ready-made food such as pizza, more people are

taking the trouble to cook a traditional meat-and-two-veg evening meal.

There are signs, too, of "dumbing down" of Britain's leisure time. While the numbers choosing to visit historic buildings or museums fell by up to 7 per cent and trips to the theatre fell by 21 per cent between 1993 and 1998, there was a boom in the cinema and in the fitness industry.

Consumer confidence in the economy is fading for the first time in three years, the Mintel report says. There are signs that saving is replacing spending on luxuries such as holidays and cars, and faith in the housing market is starting to slide, though it is still better than in 1996. Concern is marked among would-be first-time buyers.

The new ford focus

family cars aren't expected to be as comfortable as they are, I expected to give you 40mpg, yet it's as safe as a larger car and they're certainly not as expensive. This isn't any family car, it's the new ford focus and it's got a lot more to offer.

the ford focus 1.6i 16v

standard equipment includes: air conditioning, power windows, power locks, power mirrors, power seats, power windows, power locks, power mirrors, power seats.

optional extras include: alloy wheels, leather interior, sunroof, cruise control, fog lights, alloy wheels, leather interior, sunroof, cruise control, fog lights.

power windows, power locks, power mirrors, power seats, power windows, power locks, power mirrors, power seats.

£13,000 or £172 pm at 11.5% APR

climate control pack, air conditioning, quickclear windscreen, heated washer jets, electrically controlled windows, electrically controlled windows, electrically controlled windows.

the ford focus is also available as a 1.8i 16v



Car of the Year 1999

driver and passenger airbags are standard on the ford focus. driver airbag is standard on every other ford car. always remember to use your safety belt. *official fuel consumption (mpg): (1.6i) urban 30.7, extra urban 51.4, combined 40.9. **plus deposit and optional made subject to mileage / condition if the vehicle is returned at the end of the finance agreement, total payable £14,634, term 25 months, 24 monthly payments of £171.25, optional final purchase payment £5,804, guarantees / indemnities may be required.

مركز من لاجل

THE TIMES WEDNESDAY JANUARY 20 1999



The spring look from M&S: from left, cotton-stretch polo neck and trousers with raincoat; wool-stripe jacket and trousers; gypsy top and drawstring trousers; and cotton top with short-sleeve shirt

Double Dutch show in the dark

FROM LISA ARMSTRONG, FASHION EDITOR, IN PARIS

IN A scene that could have been straight out of *Prêt-à-Porter*, Robert Altman's celluloid satire, the young Dutch fashion duo Viktor and Rolf presented their couture collection in the dark.

It might seem perverse to show clothes, which live or die by their hand-worked details, by ultraviolet spotlight. The ruse highlighted the white clothes beautifully (and the lint on the audience's attire) but left the black entirely obscured. Viktor and Rolf, who came to the catwalks via art school, are self-styled conceptual couturiers. Their last collection, featuring huge neck pillows that made the models look like Quasimodo on a bad-posture day, was entitled *Atomic Chic*. Concepts are best confined to art galleries and philosophy degrees. However, "The Concept", such as it was (and I think it all boiled down to black and white, paled into insignificance when the models began coming out again, but this time with the lights on. Out they all trotted, the Tuxedo, the Dodge Priest, the Holly Hunter character from *The Piano* and, inevitably, given the ultraviolet, the Skeleton. Cruel to mock, as Viktor and Rolf can cut an interesting suit, and beneath the concepts there is talent.



One of Viktor and Rolf's creations shown in Paris

Higher marks for some extra sparks

Susie Steiner sees M&S begin its fightback with designs for a brighter spring

CITY analysts were among guests at a fashion show yesterday as Marks & Spencer sought to reverse the downturn in its fortunes with the launch of its new spring and summer collection. The range is titled *Fresh Start*.

The low-key showing took place at the firm's central London headquarters in a brightly-lit, boutique-style room where clothes hung from lonely metal rails while the bar served coffee with not a little portion of humble pie for past mistakes.

"I think our core customer has perceived that we have let her down,"

said Martin Kemp, who took up his role as commercial executive of knitwear and sportswear this week, having been moved from his previous position as head of lingerie — Marks & Spencer's most successful department, which secures 40 per cent of Britain's underwear market.

"I hope what we have done, after much internal reflection, is learnt a lot of lessons and applied them to this spring range," he added. "We are setting out to sell more goods

this spring than last year." Customers may have complained of poor service, badly displayed merchandise, overpricing and a drop in the product quality on which the firm built its name, but Mr Kemp's own view is that the firm's autumn collection failed on colour, with too much grey and black. Its aim this summer is to redress the imbalance.

Yesterday the rails burst with flashes of fuchsia and turquoise in large patterns on retro-style floaty

resses. The look seemed more Margot in *The Good Life* than Twiggy in *Vogue*, but the question of serving different generations simultaneously is another problem that Mr Kemp aims to tackle.

After two years of rapid growth, resulting in 290 M&S stores nationwide, Marks & Spencer has suffered a pummeling over the past six months. The troubled high street chain suffered critically poor trading over the Christmas period and is-

sued its first profits warning last week. The firm's shares fell to a six-year low as analysts cut their profit forecasts by as much as £200 million.

Marks & Spencer remains dogged by an awkward straddling of the generations, with its middle-aged customers complaining of too much pandering to teenage fashion while the young still steer clear of its mumsy image. Attempts at military combat trousers and utility sports-

wear have floundered in a confusion of age and cut which attempts to please all and ends up pleasing nobody.

Mr Kemp said: "We didn't get rid of products for 40 to 50-year-olds, but the problem was they couldn't find them properly because we put the fashion-based, up-to-the-minute products at the front."

Spring and summer will see the Marks & Spencer success stories return — the reliable staples such as T-shirts, pyjamas and underwear in bright whites and pretty blues, which it does so well.

expectmore



the new ford focus



Final purchase payment, retail customers only. Typical example: monthly payments £171.25, mileage pa 12,000, deposit £4,550, balance £8,450, total credit charges £1,634 (including finance facility fee of £70 payable with first monthly payment. Further charges may be excluded metallic paint + £250, the seven organising publications of the "Car Of The Year 1999" award are vi blagers, am, autocar, Automobile magazine, autopesa, slarn, autovisla.

French salute a four-legged hero

Ben Macintyre tells how the Nazis executed an army horse that dealt one of their soldiers a mortal blow

A HORSE that was executed by a Nazi firing squad in 1940 after it kicked a German soldier to death has won belated recognition as an equine hero of the Resistance.

The exploits of Iris XVI, a swift and ill-tempered mount that had belonged to General Philippe Leclerc, the liberator of Paris in 1944, are celebrated in the latest issue of *Le Casseur*, journal of the Saint-Cyr military academy, France's equivalent of Sandhurst.

In the years before the war, Iris XVI (a gelding, despite the name) was widely considered the most unruly horse in the army, as well as one of the ugliest, with "a long back, a shambling gait and straggling tail". "He looked more like a working horse than a cavalry mount," one Saint-Cyrien said. Despite the animal's appearance and temperament, the chestnut was the favoured mount of Philippe de Hautecloque, a Saint-Cyr instructor who later would use the pseudonym Leclerc to prevent reprisals against his family when he joined General de Gaulle in London to rally the Free French.

Iris XVI gained a reputation as a winner among the military horse-racing fraternity, repeatedly beating more favoured and elegant horses on the track, but it remained remarkably untamed and in

1936 threw the future General Leclerc, breaking his leg in two places and leaving him with a permanent limp.

In 1939, when other horses were mobilised for war, Iris XVI was left behind because it was "considered too precious, or too dangerous". Armand de Vasselot de Régné, a contemporary of General Leclerc at Saint-Cyr, writes:

On June 14, 1940, the Saint-Cyr stables were occupied by a German cavalry unit of the invading Nazi army, whose commander summoned one of the stablehands. "Monsieur, you have in your stables an excellent horse named Iris XVI. This horse beat my horse in a race at the hippodrome. I want to see this horse. Go and fetch it," the German commander ordered.

The stablehand is said to have replied, whether out of fear or calculation: "I know which his box is, why not give me one of your soldiers and he can take him out?"

The luckless German soldier was handed a bridle and shown to Iris XVI's stable, but, as M de Régné records, "when he opened the door, Iris XVI let loose a massive kick and killed him stone dead".

The enraged German officer ordered a swift reprisal. "Put this horse up against a wall. Bring me 12 men. This horse will be shot," he said.



The future General Leclerc riding Iris XVI while still a Saint-Cyr instructor before the war and, right, in Paris after the liberation in 1944

Iris XVI was shot minutes later. The horse has no recorded grave, leaving open the unpleasant possibility that the champion racer and resistant may have been eaten.

General Leclerc, leaning on the walking stick that was Iris XVI's legacy to him, entered Paris in triumph alongside de Gaulle four years after the execution of his favourite horse.

The indomitable animal was also remembered fondly by other graduates of Saint-Cyr, including one Captain de La Horie, a renowned horseman and officer in the Second Armoured Division. De la Horie was killed during the attack on Strasbourg in November 1944. The vehicle in which he died had, painted across the top of its windscreen, the

name of another hero who died for France: Iris XVI.

□ Bangkok: France has bestowed the Légion d'honneur, its most prestigious decoration, on a 99-year-old Thai veteran of the First World War, the French Embassy here said yesterday.

Gérard Coste, the French Ambassador to Thailand, pinned the medal on the chest

of Yod Sangrungruang in Phitsanulok, 208 miles north of Bangkok on Monday, the embassy said.

The veteran is the sole surviving member of the 1,284 Thai soldiers who served in the European theatre as part of the Royal Thai Expeditionary Force. He worked as an aircraft mechanic with the French armed forces.

To commemorate the eightieth anniversary of the end of the war, France has been conferring the Légion d'honneur on all surviving Allied veterans as a way of honouring those who fought on its soil to defeat the German Army.

After the war, Yod returned to Thailand, where in due course he became a village headman. (AP)

Chubais libel claim rejected

FROM ANNA BLUNDY IN MOSCOW

ONE of the chief architects of Russia's much-criticised privatisation programme, Anatoli Chubais, who is a member of the right-wing coalition set to oppose the Communists in the coming elections, has lost his libel case against Sergei Daryenko, a newspaper and political interviewer.

In his weekly review of the news, Mr Daryenko teased Mr Chubais about the \$90,000 (£35,000) advance he had received from a friend and supposed co-author of a planned book on privatisation. He had television auditions in stitches with his jokes against the unpopular Chubais, who is widely held to be partly responsible for the implementation of the shock of market reform.

Mr Chubais sued for libel, demanding 5 million roubles from ORT, the television company, and 500,000 roubles from Mr Daryenko. The regional court found in favour of Mr Daryenko last October. Mr Chubais appealed to the Moscow City Court, which on Monday upheld the original decision.

Stasi file handover sparks mole-hunt

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

THE most comprehensive mole-hunt in the recent history of the German spy service is to begin thanks to an exchange of intelligence between the Central Intelligence Agency and the German authorities.

True, the moles may now be a bit long in the tooth — some of the newly available data relates to Cold War agents from the 1970s — but for the first time spycatchers will be able to lay bare how deeply the East German Stasi penetrated the defences of the West.

Next month Sandy Berger, the National Security Adviser, will hand over to a German emissary a suitcase containing the microfilmed archives of the foreign espionage department (HVA) of the Stasi. The CIA bought the archive in 1989 in an operation codenamed Rosewood soon after the collapse of the Berlin Wall.

The files contain the real names of all the sources and officers who reported to Markus Wolf, the East German spy-master. The Germans have been pressing the Americans

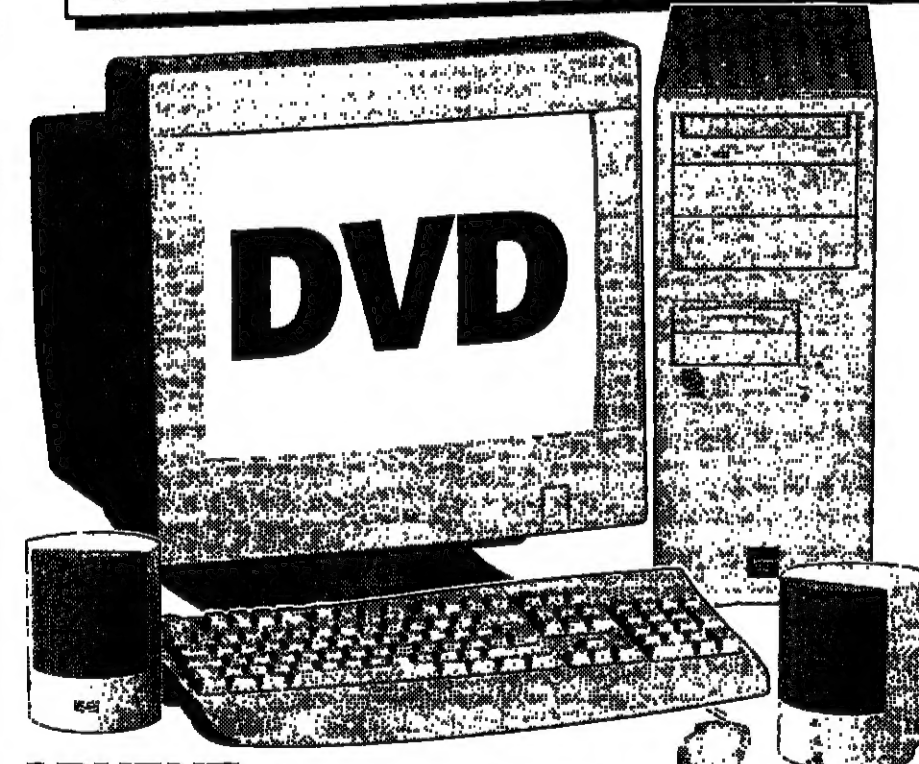
for the information ever since. Only recently did the German spy service (BND) receive a copy of the names of the 1,900 East German agents operating in West Germany. But there is much more to come.

The CIA relented only when two former East German computer technicians cracked the code of four magnetic tapes containing reports from all East German spies abroad between 1969 and 1987. The reports were held by the Gauck Agency, which is in charge of secret police archives.

Now a trade has been arranged, there should be some clarity about the killing last year of the commander of the Swiss Guard — there was speculation that it was linked to East German infiltration at the Vatican. Persistent rumours about Stasi contacts with the Labour Party in the early 1980s and Social Democratic parties throughout Europe will be tested also.

Not a good time, in short, for agents enjoying their retirement on the golf course.

FREE 17" Monitor Upgrade WITH 400MHz ADVENT PC



ADVENT 400MHz Intel® Celeron™ Processor

- 64MB SDRAM
- 128K Cache Memory
- 8.5Gb Seagate Hard Disk
- Hitachi 4x DVD Drive
- 8Mb 3D AGP ATI Rage Pro Graphics
- Creative Labs Soundblaster 64-bit PCI Soundcard with Speakers
- 56k v.90 Modem
- 17" Colour Monitor** (Free upgrade from 15")
- Windows 98, Lotus SmartSuite Millennium, IBM World Book 99, RFA 99 and more. MODEL: 8272

FREE 17" MONITOR UPGRADE**

56k MODEM
8Mb 3D AGP ATI RAGE PRO GRAPHICS

PC WORLD PRICE
£997.58

£649.58

9 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION*



FREE PRINTER

ACER 333MHz Intel® Celeron™ Processor

- 32MB RAM
- 4.0Gb Hard Disk
- 128K Cache Memory
- 32x MultiMedia
- 4MB AGP Graphics
- 56k Modem
- 15" Colour Monitor
- Windows 98 plus select over £1000 worth of software*
- MODEL: Acer 605A Was £799

PLUS FREE Printer: MODEL: Lexmark C1100 Colour Inkjet Printer

PC WORLD PRICE
£749.58

£637.58

9 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION*



PACKARD BELL 333MHz Intel® Celeron™ Processor

- 64MB SDRAM
- 4.0Gb Hard Disk
- 128K Cache Memory
- 32x MultiMedia
- 4MB AGP Graphics
- 56k Modem
- 15" Colour Monitor
- Windows 98 plus select over £1000 worth of software*
- MODEL: Packard C333 Was £1099

PLUS OVER £1000 WORTH OF SOFTWARE*

PC WORLD PRICE
£899.58

£765.58

9 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION*

PACKARD BELL 366MHz Intel® Celeron™ Processor

- 64MB SDRAM
- 4.0Gb Hard Disk
- 128K Cache Memory
- 32x MultiMedia
- 4MB AGP Graphics
- 56k Modem
- 15" Colour Monitor
- Windows 98 plus select over £1000 worth of software*
- MODEL: Packard C366 Was £1099

PLUS OVER £1000 WORTH OF SOFTWARE*

PC WORLD PRICE
£999.58

£850.58

9 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION*

PACKARD BELL 400MHz Intel® Celeron™ Processor

- 64MB SDRAM
- 4.0Gb Hard Disk
- 128K Cache Memory
- 32x MultiMedia
- 4MB AGP Graphics
- 56k Modem
- 15" Colour Monitor
- Windows 98 plus select over £1000 worth of software*
- MODEL: Packard C400 Was £1099

PLUS OVER £1000 WORTH OF SOFTWARE*

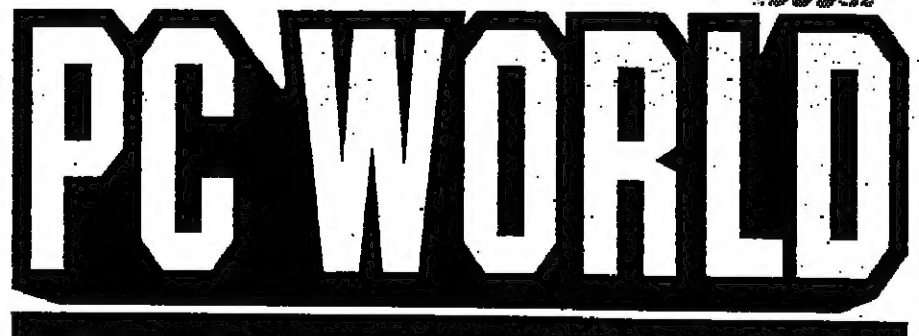
PC WORLD PRICE
£1099.58

£935.58

9 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION*

BRITAIN'S BIGGEST COMPUTER SALE
IS ON AT ALL STORES FOR YOUR NEAREST STORE CALL
0990 464 464

We won't be beaten on price



THE COMPUTER SUPERSTORE

APR 29.5%

So you haven't claimed on your home insurance recently?

Save up to **20%** with Legal & General

Our home insurance gives you a no-claims discount and a range of valuable benefits. Phone now for your individual quotation. Full written details available on request.

free pen when you call

Freephone 0500 66 55 55

8am - 8pm Weekdays, 9am - 1pm Saturday.
Please quote code 8016-8P when you phone.
For your protection calls are usually recorded and randomly monitored.

Visit our website at www.LandG.com

Legal & General
trust us to deliver

This insurance is provided by Legal & General Insurance Ltd, Legal & General Direct Ltd, Registered in England, No. 2703080. Registered office: Temple Court, 11 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4N 4TE

A swift look at what you can save on your BT bill



COUNTRY/COST PER MINUTE	BT	SWIFTCALL	SAVING	COUNTRY/COST PER MINUTE	BT	SWIFTCALL	SAVING
USA	16p	9p	44%	GERMANY	18p	14p	21%
JAPAN	42p	18p	57%	FRANCE	18p	14p	21%
INDIA	76p	50p	34%	IRELAND	14p	10p	27%
AUSTRALIA	24p	16p	35%	TAIWAN	73p	45p	39%
SOUTH AFRICA	52p	36p	30%	CANADA	16p	12p	25%

All prices are per minute, include VAT and are correct as of 1.1.99.

*BT figures quoted are Friends & Family weekend rate.

Open a Swiftcall account today and make immediate savings on calls to anywhere in the world.

- No need to change your existing number or phone line. • No hidden charges.
- Quality Customer Service and clear lines. • Open an account for as little as £25.

TO OPEN YOUR SWIFTCALL ACCOUNT:

CALL FREE **0800 769 0022** TODAY

SWIFTCALL

SWIFTCALL is part of KDD, Japan's leading international telecommunications company

LOW COST INTERNATIONAL CALLS

Chubai
libel
claim
rejected

file handov
ks mole-hun

0500 66 55 55

looter



Serbian police chief dies in fight at village

FROM TOM WALKER IN RACAK

ABOVE: The Orthodox Church on the Kastanje hill overlooking Stenje and Racak, monitors were staging their usual vigil through binoculars, documenting minute by minute the village's fate in the mist below. After a particularly heavy bout of gunfire, a convoy of 20 police vehicles descended from the hill opposite. Shortly afterwards a helicopter went in to remove the police casualties. Later, a release from the Pristina media centre said that a police deputy chief, Miro Medić, had been killed and two of his colleagues seriously wounded as they "guarded the investigation authorities". The regional prosecuting magistrate, Danica Marinković, was said to have again entered the village, although she refused to talk to journalists afterwards. Late on Monday she was reported to have had the back windows of her Lada Niva shot out by a Kosovo Liberation Army sniper as the police removed the Albanian bodies from Racak mosque. In Pristina itself, the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe maintained a discreet silence over the fu-

KOSOVO MISSION

ture of the Kosovo mission, should its ambassador, William Walker, be forced to leave. Serb sources confirmed that one irony of Mr Walker's possible expulsion would be its harm to Ms Marinković's income: she and her husband own the apartment block where Mr Walker, now dubbed the "ambassador of lies" by the Serb press - rents a flat at considerable cost. The media centre said it was



Walker: may be forced to leave by Serbs

on the point of organising a police press conference to give the official Serb version of events at Racak.

The local authorities and Belgrade have been given heart by reports of what French newspapers are said to be planning to publish today. These reports would throw considerable doubt on the Albanian accounts of what happened at Racak.

Several French journalists have studied video footage of the police attack on the village on Friday, and they have concluded that women and children were not separated from their menfolk, as has been widely reported.

The video footage also shows the police to have been without the masks reported by the Albanians, and the French journalists also postulate that the Albanians both shifted many of the bodies of the massacre victims and mutilated them. "The best proof will come from the autopsies," said a Serb official in Pristina.

"Unfortunately, the Finnish pathologists cannot join us until Thursday," the official added. "But thankfully we have experts from Belarus observing the investigations. I hope the truth will come out before the Nato bombing starts."

Belgrade warned of raids 'in days'

BY MICHAEL EVANS AND MICHAEL BINTON

TWO Nato generals gave President Milosevic a warning yesterday to pull back his troops from Kosovo, as the US Ambassador to the alliance predicted that airstrikes could be launched within days if the Yugoslav leader remained defiant.

At a lunchtime meeting with Mr Milosevic in Belgrade, General Wesley Clark, Nato's supreme allied commander Europe, and General Klaus Naumann, chairman of the military committee at alliance headquarters, spelled out the consequences if Serb forces continued to mount attacks in Kosovo.

Alexander "Sandy" Vershbow, the US Ambassador to Nato, made it clear in public

MILITARY OPTIONS

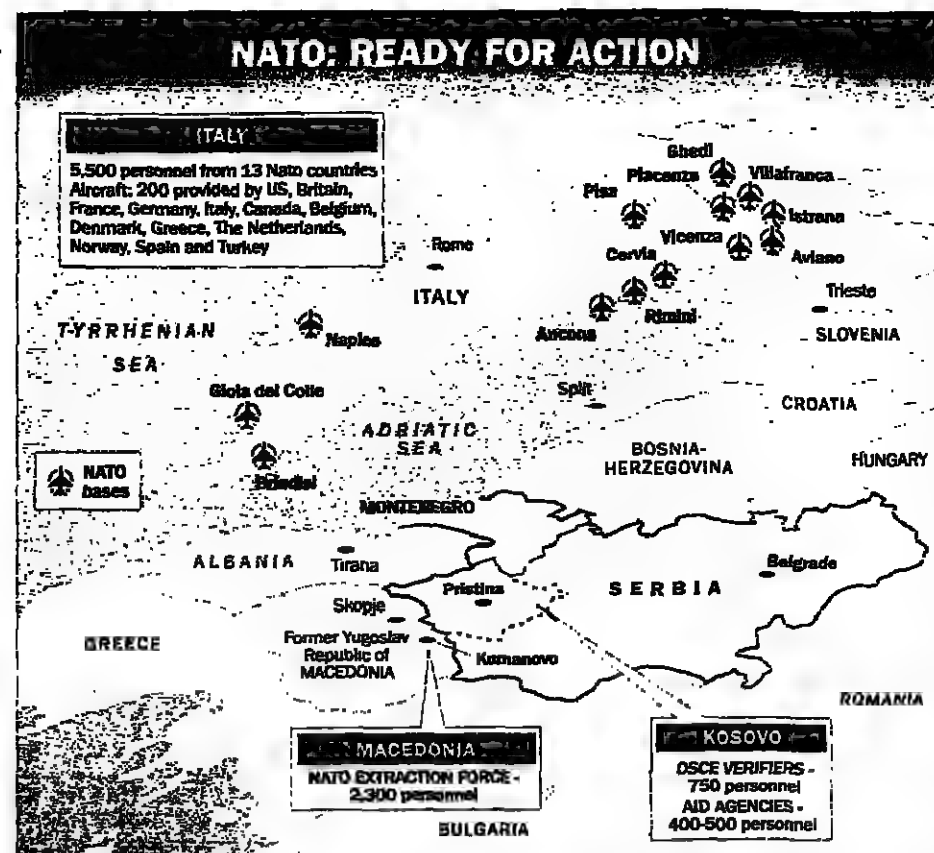
that this could mean imminent airstrikes.

Speaking on the BBC's Today programme, he said that if Mr Milosevic adopted a totally defiant posture with the two generals, alliance governments would be forced to make a decision on action within a matter of days.

"The situation is very urgent," he said. "Time is running out for Milosevic. He doesn't seem to understand how serious the situation is. I don't think our patience will extend for very long."

Sandy Berger, the US National Security Adviser, said in Washington that the threat of force was still "very much an option".

Before meeting Mr Milosevic, General Clark said that the military plans drawn up



last October for extensive airstrikes were still "very much alive". He told the BBC: "Most of the forces are poised and ready should they be called on today."

Thirteen Nato countries have combat aircraft deployed in Italy for possible airstrikes and remain on a high operational status. The RAF has four Harrier GR7 ground attack aircraft at Gioia del Colle, one TriStar airborne refuelling tanker at Aviano, and two Sentry early warning radar systems at Aviano. For the planned airstrikes

campaign against Yugoslavia in October - averted at the last moment - a total of 500 aircraft were assigned for the raids, including six US B52s, sent to RAF Fairford in Gloucestershire.

At the Belgrade meeting, the two Nato generals demanded that Mr Milosevic bring to justice those responsible for the massacre of 45 Albanians in the village of Racak in Kosovo, the incident which provoked the latest confrontation. Generals Clark and Naumann also tried to persuade

Mr Milosevic to reverse his decision to expel William Walker, the American head of mission in Kosovo of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe.

The Yugoslav Government later announced that it had delayed the 48-hour expulsion order by a further 24 hours, after a special request from Knut Vollebaek, chairman of the OSCE.

The two generals will be reporting back to Nato's North Atlantic Council in Brussels later today. Also today, Britain will chair a meeting of the

six-nation Contact Group in Brussels, at which political directors from Russia, America and four European Nato allies will examine the bleak options facing those attempting to promote peace negotiations in Kosovo.

Moscow remains staunchly opposed to the use of force, and is expected to take as strong a line against Nato airstrikes as it did against the British and American attacks on Baghdad. Western diplomats were encouraged by Russia's recent condemnation of violence in Kosovo, but were pessimistic that this could be translated into gaining greater leverage over Belgrade.

Instead, today's meeting will focus on ways of breaking the diplomatic deadlock by intensifying the pressure on Belgrade in the United Nations, raising shuttle diplomacy to a higher level and proposing a Dayton-style conference of all the parties in a third country.

Diplomats admitted yesterday that there was little incentive for either Mr Milosevic or the Kosovo Liberation Army to begin meaningful talks. They hoped that the KLA could be persuaded to join negotiations, either by squeezing its supply of weapons from Albania or by speeding up elections in Kosovo for Albanian political representatives who could claim a mandate for talks. But the KLA is likely to deal harshly with any rival Albanian factions.

The brain-storming session of the Contact Group in Brussels will be followed by the two generals' reports. The Contact Group is still searching for a way to co-ordinate the various initiatives by Nato, political directors and the OSCE.

Macedonia force on alert as evacuation fears grow

FROM JAMES PETTIFER IN SKOPJE

THE 2,300 members of the Nato Evacuation Force in Skopje remained on full alert yesterday as the possibility grew of a direct intervention to remove international monitors from Kosovo.

Nato has considerable military resources here but, as always in the Balkans, things on the ground can look very different from the way they seem in the military planners' offices in New York or Brussels.

It is not clear what the nature of the United Nations' preventative peacekeeping force will be if the Nato force gets involved in Kosovo. The blue-helmeted troops have been patrolling the borders of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia since 1993.

The Nato operation is French-led and few of the French officers here expect direct involvement. "We are fighters, yes, but only for a big fire," one said. But

NATO WATCH

many believe that they will be used if the Serbs take hostages from the monitoring force.

Most of the Italian soldiers billeted in the Hotel Tourist in Marshal Tito Street agree. "We would be invading Yugoslavia," one said.

Nato plans, as always, are prey to the traditional Balkan loyalties of the big powers. The French officers are strongly pro-Serb: "It is the Muslim problem. We have it in France," one Frenchman said.

Some feel that the Nato helicopters would be vulnerable to Serb anti-aircraft fire and it would require a major assault to bring off a successful hostage rescue.

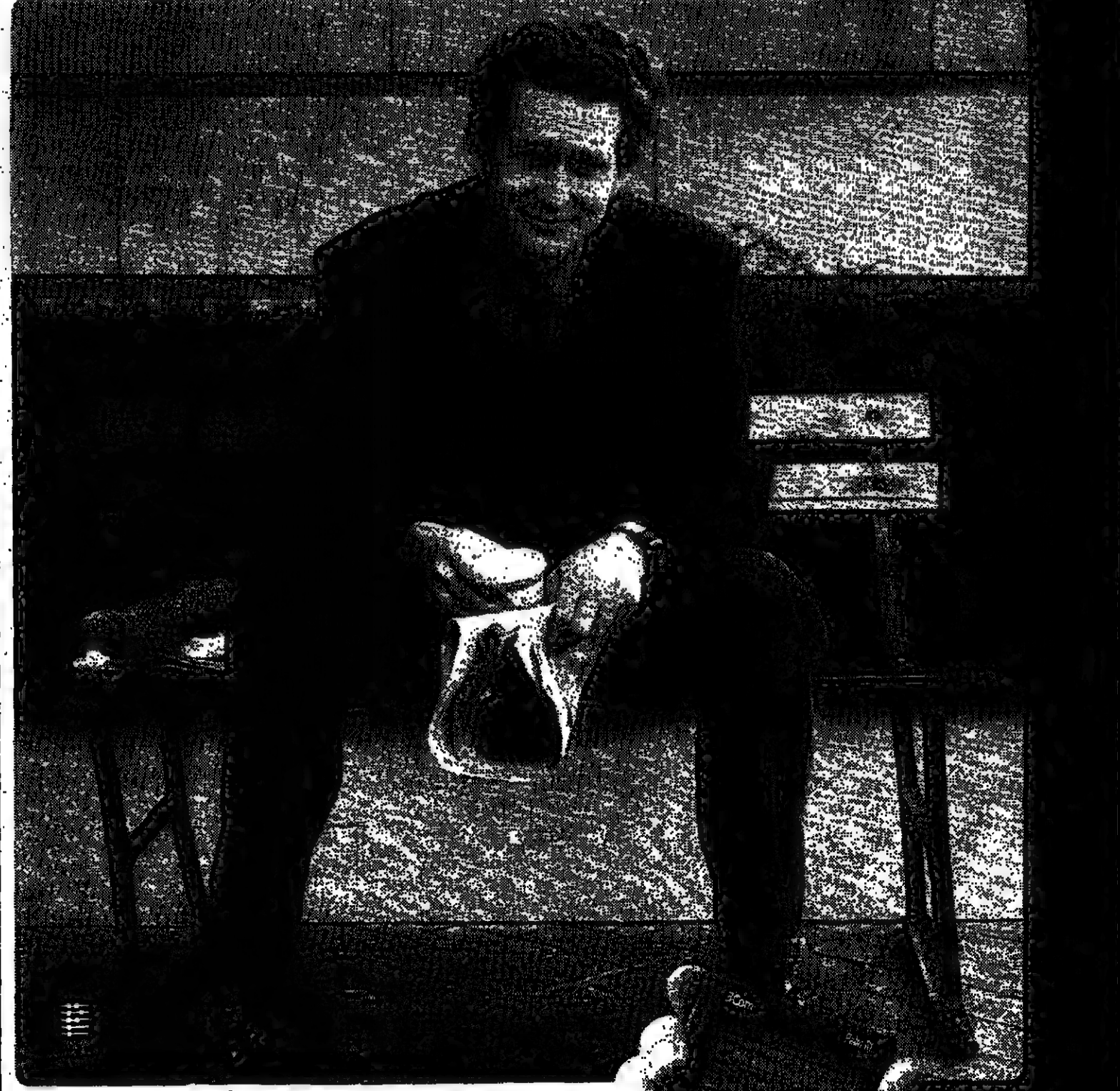
□ Helsinki: The behaviour of the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) makes it harder for the West to intervene militarily on its behalf in the Serbian province, a senior American diplomat said yesterday. Robert Gelbard, President

Clinton's special envoy to the Balkans, said that the KLA bore part of the blame for the tension in Kosovo, even though President Milosevic of Yugoslavia was the main culprit. "We do not want to be the Kosovo Liberation Army's air force," Mr Gelbard told a news conference. "They have to learn to obey the rules, too."

Mr Gelbard said that Yugoslav forces were not alone in committing violence in Kosovo and that the KLA, which is fighting for independence for the mainly ethnic Albanian province, had engaged in murder and kidnapping.

However, he described as criminal President Milosevic's refusal on Monday to allow Louise Arbour, the UN war crimes prosecutor, to enter Kosovo. "The expulsion of Louise Arbour has been yet another demonstration that Slobodan Milosevic is an international outlaw," Mr Gelbard said. He declined to comment on the likelihood of airstrikes threatened by Nato. (Reuters)

SUCCESS IS A DIRECT RESULT OF AMBITION, CONNECTIONS AND A REALLY GOOD TO-DO LIST.



CAROL O'CONNELL JUDAS CHILD

A heart-stopping turn in the novel of intelligence and suspense... well-written and mesmerising

FRANCES FYFIELD, MAIL ON SUNDAY

Out now in good bookshops

£10

WORLD SUMMARY

70 miles of cones settle border row

Lapartococha, Peru: President Fujimori of Peru and President Mahuad of Ecuador unveiled a line of concrete cones demarcating a 70-mile stretch of the border between the countries in a remote rainforest region. The meeting marked the end of a dispute that has led to three wars in 100 years.

Rapist to die

Manila: A man who raped his stepdaughter, aged 11, should be put to death by lethal injection "without delay" the Supreme Court ruled, clearing the way for the first execution in 23 years.

'Witch' girl killed

Lausanne: A girl of 11 was beaten to death in front of her two sisters aged five and nine because her mother and aunt believed she was bewitched, Swiss police said. Both adults have been arrested. (AP)

Plea for food aid

Seoul: Famine-hit North Korea has demanded a million tonnes of US food aid in return for allowing an inspection of an underground site suspected of being for nuclear purposes. (AFP)

Panda attack

Beijing: A peasant in Sichuan province has been mauled by a giant panda after falling into its shed at a breeding centre. The woman was seriously injured in the attack and underwent an operation. (AFP)

Itemise, categorise, and prioritise everything you need to do. Conquer a goal with each box you check. And there's just the to-do list. With the Palm III connected organiser, you can store thousands of contacts and years of schedules. Even exchange that information back and forth with your PC and our HotSync technology. So when everything you need is right at your fingertips, who needs a corner office? The recommended retail price for the Palm III connected organiser is just £279.99. To learn more, visit www.palm.com or call free on 0800 731 1064. The Palm III is currently available at a retailer near you, including The City Organiser, Curry, Dixons, L.T. Works, John Lewis Partnership, The Link, PC World, Ryman, Selfridges, Staples and Tempa.

3Com More connected

Joy in the rain as Hussein returns home

By CHRISTOPHER WALKER
IN AMMAN

JORDAN gave way to euphoria yesterday as King Hussein returned home from a six-month cancer cure to resume control of the desert kingdom he has ruled for 47 years.

Up to a million Jordanians lined the streets of the rain-soaked capital to greet the man known by diplomats as PLK (Plucky Little King) as he braved wintry weather to wave from the open top of a white Mercedes.

Some Jordanians, maintaining Beduin custom, slaughtered sheep and camels in the King's honour. Others sat in tents heated by smoky wood-burners and filled with patriotic bagpipe music. Loudspeakers lined a route lit with fairy-lights and festooned with giant portraits of the 63-year-old

monarch and his wife, Queen Noor. Shopkeepers offered trays of sweetmeats and cardamom-faced coffee to passers-by.

Munir Abdul Samad, 42, an English teacher, pointed to a camel squatting on the back of a white pickup truck. "We have brought the animal 150 miles to kill it here to show His Majesty how much we love him and how we have missed him like a father," he said.

The teacher, his head swathed in a red and white keffiyeh, added: "It is truly miraculous. For nearly a year, we had no rain. Now, within hours of the King addressing us on Saturday night, it has rained almost non-stop. It shows even the heavens are determined to welcome him."

From the atmosphere along the 15-mile route of the royal motorcade, the country might

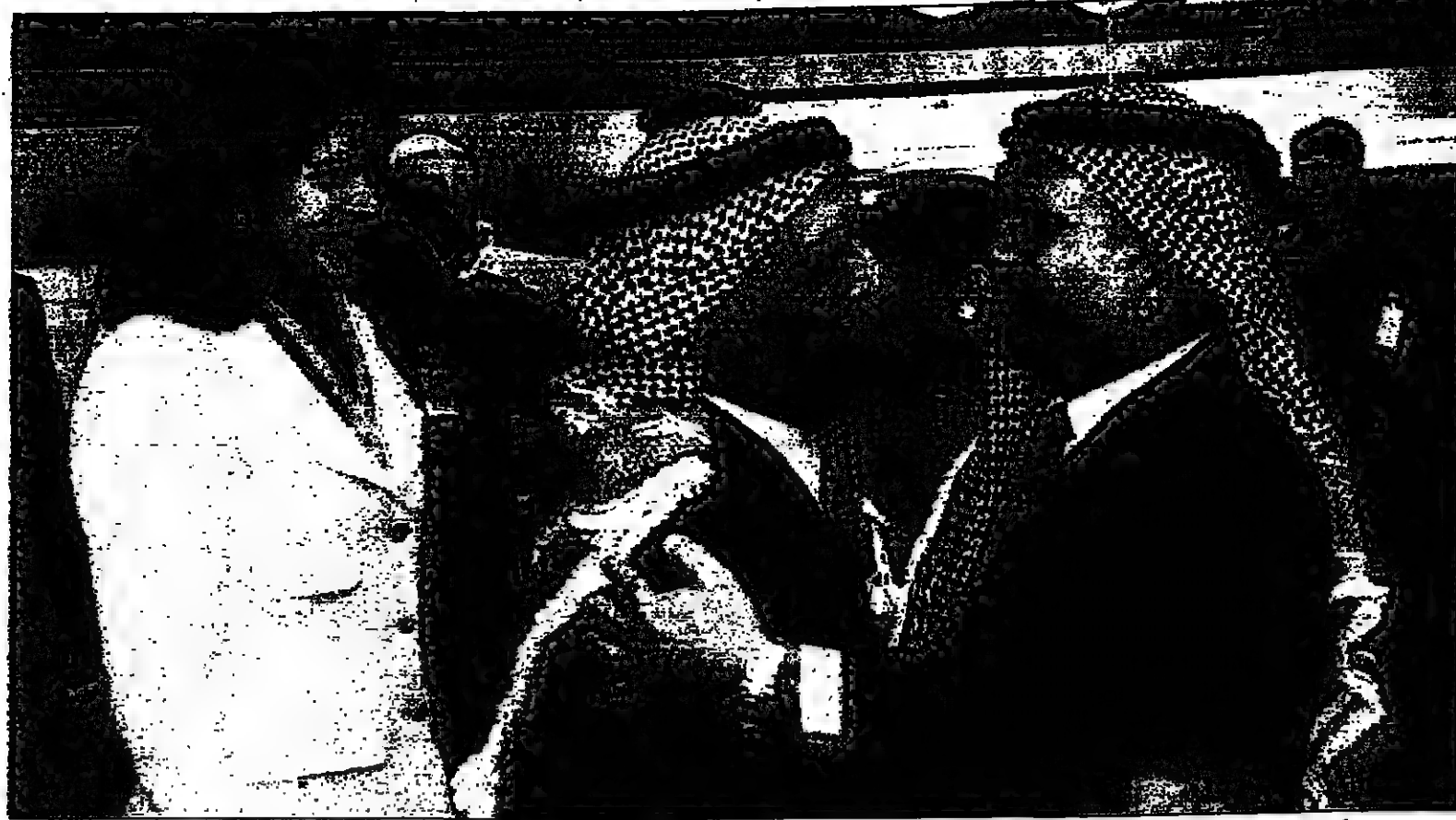
well have won the World Cup, or even a war. "I can tell you what you see is genuine, heart-felt feeling," Mr Samad said. "Without the King we were all frightened what might happen to our country."

Many were anxious to see how the King looked after six months of chemotherapy in the US for non-Hodgkins lymphoma. Doctors have announced him cured after treatment which also included a transplant of his own bone marrow and blood transfusions from close relatives.

The King — the world's longest-serving executive ruler — piloted his own jet home.

Somewhat he appeared to have gained strength since being helped towards the plane in London by his American-born wife only hours earlier.

In a symbolic gesture that will have appealed even to his



King Hussein, watched by Queen Noor, is embraced by his brother, Crown Prince Hassan, after arriving home in Amman yesterday

Islamic fundamentalist enemies, the King's first act was to kneel and pray towards Mecca on a red and black mat laid out on the sodden runway. Then he met Arab notables, including the President of Yem-

en, the Emir of Qatar, the Crown Prince of Morocco and Bahrain, and Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader.

Throughout the day, Jordan Television relayed film of the King's reign, which began

when he was 17, not long after his grandfather, King Abdullah, was assassinated in front of him in Jerusalem.

Banners stretched in a forest across the wide boulevards of Amman proclaimed: "You re-

turn like the soul to the body." The excitement was reinforced by the fact that 80 per cent of Jordanians have never known another ruler and have a rapport with the King.

"The simple fact is that we love the man and we admire him," said Naim Mulek, a Jordanian Christian of Palestinian origin. "We want to show you how happy we are, he is well."

The King said yesterday that there was "much to be done". He has promised to introduce a series of reforms before he returns in two months to the Mayo clinic in Minnesota for what is described as a routine check-up. The planned reforms include a rooting out of corruption.

He has also told close aides that he plans to convene a family council to deal with the future of the Hashemite dynas-

ty. There is speculation that he wants Prince Hamzah, his 18-year-old son by Queen Noor, to succeed him, rather than his brother, Crown Prince Hassan bin Talal, 51, his designated successor.

A palace official said: "His Majesty, a strong believer with a deep sense of faith in God's will, has confronted life and death, during those difficult days [of his cure]. It naturally rekindled a wish to seek posterity through passing the succession to one of his sons."

Two Israeli air force F16 fighters provided an honorary escort for King Hussein as he piloted himself over Israel's air space. Israel's Defence Ministry said the planes met the King's plane 50 miles outside Israel's waters above the Mediterranean Sea. (AP)

Leading article, page 15

GREAT ITALIAN DESIGN DESERVES CREDIT



0% FINANCE OVER TWO YEARS
PLUS ONE YEARS FREE INSURANCE

Punto Sporting

2 years Lower Monthly Payment
0% APR Fiat Esplan

On the road price	£11,169.00	£11,169.00
Deposit £	£3,601.00	£3,645.97
Deposit %	30%	30%
Amount Financed	£7,568.00	£7,523.03
Period (Months)	24	25
Monthly Payments*	£232.00	£189.00
Final Payment†	N/A	£5,418.47
Charge for Credit	00	£1,075.36
Total Amount Payable	£11,169.00	£12,645.36
APR%	0.0%	11.9%

FIAT PUNTO RANGE STARTS AT £7,859 ON THE ROAD.

FIAT

Travel agent denies Miss World rape

Ramleh: An Israeli travel agent has denied raping Linor Abargil, the 19-year-old Israeli model who is Miss World, saying: "I didn't do this dirty thing."

A court here yesterday ordered that Shlomo Nour, 43, be held until January 31 pending an Israeli police inquiry into the alleged rape outside Milan on October 6.

Mr Nour, who was arrested at Tel Aviv airport on his return home this month, said: "I came to Israel on my own initiative. I didn't do this dirty thing, I didn't do this disgusting thing, and I am an innocent man."

Ms Abargil, who won the Miss World crown in November, alleges that the Egyptian-born Israeli, who ran a travel agency in Milan, raped her at

knife-point in his car after offering to drive her to Rome for a flight home.

Mr Nour claims that they had consensual sex in his Milan apartment. (Reuters)

Nour claims Abargil consented to sex

LINE RENTAL £12.99

£5 worth (up to 120 mins) Free calls every month

Free MOTOROLA D52 with Sameday Express Warrant

Free CONNECTION to Cellnet Digital Network

- free NIMH battery
- free Mains Charger
- free Car Mount
- free Leather Case
- free Car Charger
- free Hands Free
- free Delivery
- free 3 months comprehensive insurance*

BUDGET USER TARIFF	
LINE RENTAL PER MONTH	£12.99 (£11.00 inc VAT)
PEAK CALLS Mon-Fri 8am-6pm per min	37p (£15.5p inc VAT)
OFF PEAK Mon-Fri 6pm-8pm per min	10p (£8.5p inc VAT)
WEEKEND CALLS Saturday 8am-11pm per min	2p

CALLS TAKEN 24 HOURS A DAY ORDERS 9am - 7pm Mon - Fri & 9am-3pm Sat

0800 833129

FOR A FRIENDLY SERVICE

SONY Phones Express Ltd, Dept. BEST 129 PO Box 398, Bedford MK43 0ZT

سكزا من لاجل

50 ذى الحجة 1419

Defence presents simple rebuttal to Senate

By DAMIAN WHITWORTH
IN WASHINGTON

THE White House opened its defence of President Clinton yesterday with a deliberately low-key address that contrasted sharply with the grand language and historical allusions used by prosecutors to open the impeachment trial.

Charles Ruff, Mr Clinton's lawyer, said simply: "William Jefferson Clinton is not guilty of the charges that have been presented against him. He did not commit perjury. He did not obstruct justice. He must not be removed from office."

Mr Ruff said that his team would not be able to "match the eloquence" of the 13 prosecutors from the House of Representatives.

"But we will try to respond to the charges as directly and candidly as possible. We will provide a defence as clearly and cogently as possible. We will defend the President on the facts and the law."

He said that the facts could not possibly convict Mr Clinton of committing perjury in the account he gave of his relationship with Monica Lewinsky before the grand jury or of obstructing justice by trying to conceal the relationship. And he said that, even if the facts could prove his guilt, he did not warrant removal from office.

At the start of a three-day defence, Mr Ruff then plunged into the details of the case. He tracked Mr Clinton's troubles back to the Paula Jones sexual harassment lawsuit and attacked the motives of her lawyers in seeking to uncover evidence of other relationships. That effort led to discovery of the President's illicit affair, Mr Ruff said, the digging for evidence was done "clearly with only one purpose: to embarrass the President."

He also attacked the prosecution's insistence that witnesses, including Ms Lewinsky, must be called. He wondered how then they could be so certain of the strength of their case when "Kenneth Starr admitted he hadn't met any of the witnesses who went before his grand jury."

Clinton puts hackers on terror agenda

Congress hears the President's worries about security, writes Ian Brodie

SHRUGGING off impeachment woes, President Clinton sounded the alarm last night on threats to American security, with proposals to defend the United States from computer terrorists and to increase its help to Russia for dismantling its Cold War arsenal.

The President also used his State of the Union message to call for a new round of global trade talks to counter the protectionist forces "let loose" by worldwide financial turmoil.

On the domestic front, Mr Clinton suggested spending most of the federal budget surplus to rescue social security, which provides Americans with their state old-age pensions. He ignored the fact that he was addressing members of the Congress who impeached him last month and who now are trying him over the sex-and-lies scandal. His plan was to press on as if nothing were amiss.

His proposal to deflect new threats to American security was an important initiative that is likely to win Republican funding. As Mr Clinton said, it was designed to defend the US from the danger of biological and chemical weapons attacks and from threats to critical computer networks by combating terrorism and protecting the infrastructures.

The proposal includes establishing a national domestic preparedness office that will run a civil defence programme to train and equip police, fire and ambulance workers who would be first on the scene of any biological or chemical weapons attack.

Mr Clinton's plan would include studies of how to recruit technologists to safeguard government computer networks. The President said: "We will improve systems designed to monitor computer intrusions. We will develop better ways of sharing information between public and private sectors so that we help better prepare for possible cyber-attacks."

The initiatives will be aimed at thwarting hackers armed with destructive computer

codes and terrorists intent on sabotaging America's electricity grid and its increasingly computer-dependent banking and financial networks.

Mr Clinton wants to expand co-operation with Russia and other former Soviet countries in disposing of their deteriorating weapons programmes by 70 per cent over five years to \$4.2 billion (£2.54 billion). He described it as money well spent in a collaborative threat-reduction that would help to reduce the spread of weapons of mass destruction.

He proposed more funds to put 8,000 Russian scientists to work on civilian research and for the dismantling and storing of warheads and the disposal of 30 tons of plutonium. The programme would help to tighten export controls, and especially to prevent Iran from obtaining technologies from Russia by underhand means, Mr Clinton said. It would also

help Russia to destroy its chemical and biological weapons.

Mr Clinton acknowledged Pentagon warnings about the need to strengthen America's armed forces by proposing an additional \$12 billion to reverse a ten-year trend towards lower military strength. Readiness would be enhanced, with new funds for recruitment, better training, more flying hours for disgruntled pilots and more spare parts, the President said. Republicans are expected to agree.

The President's proposal for new world trade talks is likely to be welcomed by European and Japanese officials. The talks, possibly to be called the Clinton Round, would open next December and focus on industrial tariffs, agriculture, labour rights, intellectual property and environmental protection. However, Republicans are unlikely to give Mr Clinton "fast-track" negotiating authority, which means that any deals he may make could be tinkered with by Congress.

More contentious were the President's plans for keeping social security solvent beyond 2032 when, on present showing, it will be unable to pay full benefits to all the "baby-boomers" in retirement. He suggested using 62 per cent of the long-term projected budget surplus, about \$2,800 billion, to increase the social security reserves. Another \$500 billion would go into new government-subsidised retirement savings accounts.

Republicans would prefer to see cuts in income tax, but must step warily to avoid upsetting voters worried about anything that would imperil their pensions.

□ **Bush inaugurated:** Half-way across the country from Washington, George W. Bush was inaugurated for the second time as Governor of Texas. Son of the former President, he is the leading Republican presidential candidate in the polls. Mr Bush remains coy about his plans, but is expected to make a formal declaration in March.



Clinton: call for a new round of trade talks



Adventurer claims discovery of treasure in Death Valley cave

Jerry Freeman, a Californian desert adventurer, and his daughter, Holly, remove a chest from a cave in Death Valley. Mr Freeman said their find contained the relics of a doomed pioneer's expedition across the hostile wastes of the South-West nearly 150

years ago, including gold and silver coins, a hunting knife and journals (Giles Whittell writes). An archaeologist and

amateur historian, Mr Freeman made headlines last year with an unauthorised hike into Nevada's top-secret

military test site known as Area 51. He had hoped to locate an inscribed rock said to have been left there by the lost 49ers, a doomed wagon train of gold-seekers. The cave with the chest was several days' walk west of Area 51, he said.

Living doll drives parents mad

FROM GILES WHITTELL
IN WASHINGTON

SHE whines. She gurgles. She answers back. She fills her nappy. She costs up to \$80 (£50), and though she seems to promise education and fun for little girls she is driving thousands of parents mad.

America is struggling with an electronic baby boom consisting of 300,000 precocious talking dolls. They have proved so demanding that many parents have resorted to the toy world's equivalent of euthanasia to ease the strain.

Amazing Amy, a plastic infant with a microprocessor for her heart and soul, has electronic sensors on her skin and tongue and a 10,000-strong digital phrasebook including such alarm calls as "I need medicine!" and "What! My nose says it's time to change my diaper." Amy was the sixth most popular electronic toy this Christmas. She was beaten by the "bounces-around" Tigger and four ver-



Amazing Amy: she has been given an attitude and is fussy about food

sions of a talking Teletubby, but emerged ahead of several Star Wars toys.

"Our mission was to make Amy as real as can be," a spokeswoman for her manufacturer told *The Washington Post*. She

was programmed to enjoy certain foods in certain circumstances, to recognise them by their shape (plastic groceries are included) and to say "yuck" when fed the wrong thing.

Amazing Amy, which some said should be renamed Annoying Amy, also has an internal clock which serves as an alarm ("It's time to get up! Wake up, mommy!") but cannot be counted on to send the doll to sleep. This happens only once she is fed, cooed and exercised, or after her complaints have been ignored five times.

Nowadays "kids expect their toys to beep and talk back to them and have an attitude", one industry analyst said. Parents are not so sure. One complained that Amy was teaching his daughter that children can expect to run the house. Others told of exhausted ten-year-olds looking for "medicine" and "milk". Still others have returned the dolls to the shop. But there is an easier option. Amazing Amy has an on/off switch in the small of her back.

FREE BOOKS FOR SCHOOLS CAMPAIGN THE TIMES

MAKE A SMALL EFFORT FOR A GREAT CAUSE

Children need more books



• **READING BOOST FOR CHILDREN**
Whether you have no children or your children are grown up, still collect tokens and give them to a school in your area which has registered for our Free Books for Schools promotion. They will appreciate your support.

• **MAKE BOOKS YOUR BUSINESS**
If you are a business, why not join in the great Books for Schools campaign and collect for the community? By supporting one of your neighbourhood schools you are helping your employees of the future.

• **A FANTASTIC OPPORTUNITY**
Most schools desperately need more books for the classroom. This is your chance to help them to get hundreds FREE.

• **START COLLECTING TODAY**
The more tokens you collect, the more books schools can order. Tokens will appear daily in *The Times* until March 27 and four will be published in *The Sunday Times* every week. Plus you can find them on Walkers crisps and soups.

Offer open to schools registered in the UK only. Schools can obtain information and registration forms by calling 0171-481-5388.

SEE THE BACK PAGE OF SECTION ONE FOR TODAY'S TOKEN
CHANGING TIMES

YOU CAN AFFORD TO THINK BIG AT THE TINY SALE!

WITH NOTHING TO PAY UNTIL THE YEAR 2000

Family Bonus System with Intel® Celeron™ Processor 366MHz
INCLUDES DIGITAL CAMERA, COLOUR PRINTER & SCANNER

- 128K CPU Cache
- 64MB Fast SD RAM
- 4.3GB Ultra DMA IDE Hard Disk Drive
- 15" SVGA Colour Monitor
- 4MB AGP 3D Accelerated Graphics Card
- 32 Speed Max CD ROM Drive
- Creative Labs Soundblaster Audio PCI 64 Integrated Sound plus Tiny CPR50 Stereo Speakers
- Voice Fax/Modem
- V.90 56Kbps
- FREE Trial BT LineOne
- Internet Access
- Windows® 95
- Microsoft Packard 420 Colour Printer
- Toshiba PDR5 Digital Camera & Image Editing Software
- Flatbed Colour Scanner
- Joystick
- Over £900 of Microsoft and Other Software

SALE PRICE £979.95
NOW £949.95
FREE DELIVERY



87 SHOWROOMS NATIONWIDE
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK, OPEN 9AM TO 5PM MON-SAT

ALDERLEY	ALTON	ALTON	ALTON
ALTON	ALTON	ALTON	ALTON
ALTON	ALTON	ALTON	ALTON
ALTON	ALTON	ALTON	ALTON
ALTON	ALTON	ALTON	ALTON
ALTON	ALTON	ALTON	ALTON
ALTON	ALTON	ALTON	ALTON
ALTON	ALTON	ALTON	ALTON
ALTON	ALTON	ALTON	ALTON
ALTON	ALTON	ALTON	ALTON

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR A FREE SALE CATALOGUE, FREephone

0800 731 9372

TINY

THINK BIG ABOUT YOUR PC. THINK TINY

0% NOTHING TO PAY UNTIL THE YEAR 2000 - NOT EVEN A DEPOSIT 26.9% APR

Seeking clues to natural cures

Mexico's flora could be nature's storehouse for remedies to many diseases. Anjana Ahuja reports

With its thick jungle and magnificent mountains, southern Mexico is one of nature's richest botanical gardens. The thousands of plants that flourish there — some grow nowhere else — have provided medicinal remedies for many centuries to the isolated Mayan people.

Now the Mayas are to let the world in on their secrets. Xenova, a British pharmaceutical company, together with scientists at the University of Georgia, are embarking on a project to document the flora in the politically troubled Mexican state of Chiapas.

Mayan doctors and healers will be interviewed to find out which plants they use to treat common ailments, such as tropical diseases.

The groundwork for the project has been laid over the past decade by a husband and wife team of anthropologists, Professor Brent Berlin and Dr Elio Ann Berlin, based at the University of Georgia. They have collected specimens of about 1,600 plants and recorded the ailments they supposedly cure. They also carried out health surveys on thousands of residents, as well as interviewing experts. The medical practices of the Mayas are so complex that the couple's findings about just one class of illness — gastrointestinal diseases — filled a 500-page book.

In 1997, realising the enormity of cataloguing other herbal remedies, Professor Berlin contacted Xenova, which is based in Slough, Berkshire. "It fitted in perfectly with what we do at Xenova Discovery," says Dr Neil Robinson, head of analytical chemistry at the research arm of the company.

"We are interested in developing drugs from natural products, especially micro-organisms in plants, and we have collected samples from all over the world. One of the most familiar drugs, aspirin, was originally derived from willow bark, so there is a long tradition of treatments coming from natural sources."

"We were particularly interested because Chiapas is a mecca of biodiversity — it has thousands of plant species that are rare and perhaps don't grow anywhere else, and harbour organisms not found anywhere else."

Last month the Xenova was awarded a grant of £300,000 a year for five years by a consortium of organisations, including the National Institutes of Health in Washington, to pursue the scheme.

The two collaborators are approaching the project from slightly different angles. Both hope that Western medicine can benefit from Mayan medical expertise honed over centuries. The Mayas have potions for such diverse conditions as



Passing on a natural asset: women in the State of Chiapas in Mexico gather to practise their traditional medicine

diarrhoea, fractures, burns and mental disorders. One plant is even used as a means of birth control. Fungi are also popular. Pharmacological studies have shown at least some of these treatments to be effective — coyote bush leaves, undocumented in modern medical literature, work wonders for diarrhoea, while a cactus balm can soothe burns.

Xenova is hoping to uncover plants that can treat more serious illnesses, such as cancer. The company has gambled successfully before: a compound found in exotic soils, known only as XR9576, may have potential as an anti-cancer agent. For Professor Berlin, the project represents the chance to document traditions and practices that are in danger of disappearing, either be-

cause of the vanishing rainforest or because modern generations are turning to more orthodox medicine. "We want to convince the younger Mayas that it makes more sense to use the natural pharmacy in their backyard than spending good money on conventional medicine that does the same thing," Professor Berlin says.

There are estimated to be 9,000 plants of interest, each playing host to several micro-organisms. The most laborious and time-consuming aspect of the project will be the collection and identification of species; specially trained botanists from the area will aid the effort greatly.

Back in the laboratory, thousands of specimens can be scrutinised in a day. Cells are brought into contact with

plant extracts to see if the concentrate has any effect. "If you get an effect, you have to find out what in the extract is causing it," Dr Robinson explains. "That means separating and purifying each compound in the extract."

The next step is to find out which bit of the cell is targeted by the compound. At this stage, chemists will create hundreds of analogues — substances with very similar molecular structures — and then test them. This helps to home in on the chunk of the molecule responsible for the effect.

Dr Robinson adds: "This tweaking might also help to produce a compound that has the same biological action but fewer side-effects, or might make the substance easier to formulate into a drug. For

example, if a compound can be tweaked so it will dissolve in water, one can administer it as a tablet rather than as an injection, which is easier."

Conscious of accusations of bioprospecting — exploiting the biological treasures of another country for profit — Xenova and Professor Berlin plan to set up a trust in Chiapas, called PROMAYA, that will represent the community and receive royalties from any drugs that Xenova develops.

"The pay-off will be considerable," Professor Berlin says. "We are not screening just any old plants. We are studying ones that have been used successfully by the Mayan people for generations. Whether we find a cure for AIDS or cancer is another question, but it's quite possible."

How the Mayas got high

The Mayas created one of the great civilisations in the unprepossessing Central American jungle. Cities such as Tikal in Guatemala and Chichén Itzá in Yucatan amazed early explorers with their massive temple pyramids, striking stone sculptures and long inscriptions in hieroglyphics.

Deciphering the dates on these monuments showed that the Mayas reached their peak between AD200 and 900 — roughly coincident with the Roman and early Byzantine Empires — before undergoing a mysterious collapse that left most of their cities abandoned to the forest. Over the past century, hundreds of these cities have been found in Mexico, Guatemala and Belize.

Tikal is estimated to have housed 70,000 people. The urban core of more than a square mile included broad plazas linked by processional ways, and six large temples. One of these, excavated in the 1960s, covered the tomb of a powerful ruler known as K'ahul Kan K'awil, who died in AD734 after half a century fighting to preserve the independence of Tikal. Such real history is emerging rapidly from the decipherment of the hieroglyphs.

At the same time, investigation of Mayan culture's economic and social foundations is revealing how this tropical forest people developed and maintained a literate society for seven centuries in such an unlikely place. Pollen in swamp soils shows rainforest destruction by 2500BC and the start of cultivation.

Excavations at the oldest-known Mayan community, Cuello in northern Belize, showed that by 1200BC many of the foundations of Mayan life were already laid, including agriculture based on maize, beans and root crops such as cassava.

grown throughout the Amazon basin and Mexico. Maize was domesticated from teosinte in the highlands of Mexico; in adapting it to the humid tropical lowlands, the Mayas showed a sophisticated understanding of the potential of plant foods. They exploited the forest fruits, including avocado and cacao. Mayan cacao groves were so productive that the Aztecs, who flourished half a millennium after the Maya went into decline, sent an expeditionary force to seize the orchards on the Pacific coast of Chiapas.

A popular drink was *bathe*, a mead in which was steeped the bark of the *bathe* tree. In one account, the jar was heated, and just before serving a toad was dropped in. The bathekin released by its parotid glands acted as a powerful hallucinogen.

Mayan pottery vessels show that such drugs were also administered as incense, bypassing the nausea caused by swallowing. Spanish sources after the 1542 conquest of Yucatan mention 'lands planted with wine trees', as well as the drunkenness of their new subjects. The Roman Catholic Church suppressed much Mayan plant lore.

In recent years, interest has revived: not just from scholars seeking explanations for the abundant depictions of plants in ancient Mayan sculptures and murals, but from those who believe that there is modern knowledge to be gained.

While searches such as Professor Berlin's may well give the world the basis for new drugs, local efforts such as the Pami Medicine Trail or the La Milpa research station in Belize are trying to bring knowledge of plants and their uses back to visitors and the Mayas themselves.

NORMAN HAMMOND

'Lands planted with wine trees' said the Spanish

THE ROYAL INSTITUTION OF GREAT BRITAIN
1799 - 1999
200 years of scientific discovery and communication

THE TIMES
SCIENTISTS FOR THE NEW CENTURY

In the first of a new series of lectures starting on Wednesday January 27, Dr Martin Westwell, a young chemist from Oxford University, will describe the war against superbugs. As well as explaining how antibiotics work, he will discuss the frightening prospect that, for the first time in the history of medicine, we have no weapons with which to fight the most deadly infections.

The talk will be introduced by Professor Susan Greenfield, director of the Royal Institution. There will be the opportunity for questions from the audience.

The lecture will be held at 7.30pm at the Royal Institution of Great Britain, 21 Albemarle Street, London W1X 4BS.

Please book me... ticket(s) at £5 and/or... ticket(s) at £3 (concs) for the Scientists of the New Century on January 27:

NAME

ADDRESS

POSTCODE DAY PHONE

I enclose my cheque made payable to Royal Institution

Value £ Cheque No.

(Please write your name, address and card number on the back of the cheque)

Or, please debit my Visa/Mastercard/Amex card No.

Expiry date:

PRINT NAME

SIGNATURE

Please post coupon and remittance to:

The Royal Institution, 21 Albemarle Street, London W1X 4BS Tel: 0171-670 2985 (24 hrs) Fax: 0171 670 2920

Please note that tickets will be posted until January 21 only.

Tickets booked after this date will be held for collection on the night at the venue. If you do not receive your tickets please call 0171-670 2985 to confirm your booking.

A dousing for dowzers

DOWSING lies right at the ragged edge of science, a hinterland occupied by ideas whose time may be past but which simply refuse to die. There is no plausible mechanism to explain it, but belief persists, aided occasionally by scientific experiments which seem to show that the technique really works.

Among the most painstaking of these were carried out in the 1980s by physicists in Munich, who concluded that most dowzers did no better than chance, but that a few "showed an extraordinarily high rate of success, which can scarcely, if at all, be explained as due to chance".

Nonsense, says Professor Jim Enright, of Scripps Institution of Oceanography in La Jolla, California. He accuses Professor Betz of "wishful thinking" in his interpretation of the Munich experiments which, he says, provide no evidence that dowsing does work.

The experiments were carried out in a barn near Munich. On the ground floor was a 30m length of track, along which a wagon could be moved. Mounted on the wagon was a length of pipe with water circulating through it.

For each test the position of the wagon along the track was determined by a random number generated by a computer. On the floor above, the dowzers were asked to work out for each test where the pipe was, without, of course, being able to see it.

From 500 volunteers, 43 dowzers were selected, and they took part in 104 sets of tests, or a total of 843 tests. Most were a failure; the argument centres over whether, as

the experimenters claimed, a minority of dowzers really could detect the correct position of the pipe. This claim, says Professor Enright in the current issue of *Skeptical Inquirer*, rests on the results of seven series of tests out of the 104 actually conducted. Three of these produced very good results, the other four reasonably good results.

The six dowzers involved also took part in unsuccessful tests, which seems to rule out claims that they had special gifts. And Professor Enright works out that even in their successful tests, the dowzers (with one exception) would have been more nearly right had they simply guessed that the pipe was in the middle of

the track each time. "The Munich experiments constitute a failure as can be imagined of dowzers to do what they claim they can," he concludes.

Professor Betz, naturally, disagrees. He has since been involved in evaluating a ten-year programme, financed by the German Government, to find water in a number of Third World countries.

Not only did dowzers find water, he asserts, but in hundreds of cases they were able to predict the depth of the water source and the yield of the well to within 10 to 20 per cent. "We carefully considered the statistics of these correlations and they far exceeded lucky guesses," he says.

So who's right? Both men claim to be evaluating the evidence scientifically and they reach entirely different conclusions.

Like the water that dowzers set out to find, this one will run and run.



SCIENCE BRIEFING
Nigel Hawkes

LAST year seismologists discovered that the Earth vibrates with a steady hum, far below the level of human audibility. The finding, by several teams including one led by Dr Naoki Suda of Nagoya University of Japan, caused puzzlement and some scepticism.

Geologists have known for nearly 40 years that earthquakes can make the Earth ring like a bell, but there are no few quakes to account for background hum.

By the time of the American Geophys-

Tune in to the humming Earth

cal Union's meeting in December, seismologists had accepted that the hum was real, but were still searching for a cause.

Dr Göran Ekström of Harvard has worked out that the hum, which has a frequency of between three and eight minutes, would require an almost constant supply of magnitude 5.8 earthquakes, which occur only once every few days. Dr

Suda believes that winds may be the cause. *Science* reports. He has found that the hum comes and goes during the day, peaking at any point on the Earth's surface when the local time of day is between noon and 8pm, and weakening between midnight and 6am.

This is the same pattern as intense thunderstorms over Africa and Asia, and means that powerful winds striking the Earth's surface are responsible for the hum — disappointing some seismologists, who would prefer it to be caused by internal activity of the Earth.

Mind the gap

SEVEN years ago two US scientists said that women-athletes would overtake men by the middle of the next century in every event from 200 metres to the marathon. But a new study says this won't happen.

In *Medicine and Science in Sports and Exercise*, Phillip Starling and colleagues from the Georgia Institute of Technology say that the gender difference in distance running has stopped narrowing.

They used world rankings for 1980 to 1996 to extract the best and the 100th best times for the 1,500 metres and the marathon.

In the 1,500 metres, the gender difference in world best times is 11.1 per cent. In the marathon 11.2 per cent. While the 100th best time for women in the marathon improved in the early 1980s as more women took up the event, the gap with men has stopped narrowing. It is likely, say the team, that these differences will remain fairly constant.

You've found a bargain in the sales.

Now you've found a great way to pay for it.

- You'll have fixed, low monthly payments.
- No compulsory insurance, arrangement fee or complicated paper work.
- No security or deposit required.
- Call now for an instant decision on loans from £1,000 to £25,000.



0181 680 9966 0161 831 9966 0141 248 9966

LONDON MANCHESTER GLASGOW

CALL ANYTIME 8am to 8pm Monday to Friday and 9am to 5pm Saturday.

Please quote ref. NTT52

Direct Line Standard Services Limited, 210 St Vincent Street, Glasgow, G2 5SR. You must be aged 22 or over and have a regular income (pension is regarded as income). Cash extended and normally restricted. Direct Line and the red phone are the trademarks of Direct Line Insurance plc, used with its permission.

Send your kids to the Moon

3Com U.S. Robotics

- Complies with V.90 56K standard performance
- Limited lifetime warranty
- All you need to get online: fax modem, Service Provider, trials and free software

3Com More Connected

*Capable of receiving downloads at up to 56Kbps and sending at up to 31.2Kbps. Actual download speeds may be lower due to varying line conditions. Requires compatible analogue phone line and server equipment. See www.3com.com/56k for details. © 1998 3Com Corporation. All rights reserved. 3Com, the 3Com logo and U.S. Robotics are registered trademarks and more connected is a trademark of the 3Com Corporation.

سكز لمن لا يملك

Oliver's army is here today

Thomas Strathclyde on Blair's Cromwellian Lords reforms

Today the Government will invite the British people to board a train to yet another unknown destination. It will publish a White Paper and a Bill designed to destroy the existing House of Lords and upset the balance between the two Houses of Parliament, without itself having, or declaring, any view of what the long-term powers, functions or composition of the Lords should be. It is hard to imagine anything more reckless or irresponsible.

This Bill is not a reform to regulations on the plucking of the tail feathers of pigeons. It affects the independence of the revising chamber in our Parliament. The Lords is where citizens and businesses are protected against bad law. It is — in the words of its sacked Labour Leader, Lord Richard — "effectively the only place in which the legislature can curb the power of the executive".

Change in Parliament should be effected only after careful cross-party discussion and full public consultation. Instead, in a typical display of arrogance, the Government will plunge on with scarcely a week's "consultation".

This House of Lords has not served the people badly. Indeed, on matters like the absurd beef-on-the-bone ban, the age of consent, the fair treatment of students at Scottish universities and the right of people to vote for a candidate of their choice by name at elections, I suspect the House is closer to the people's idea of what is sensible than the "people's Government".

It is bizarre that when Tony Blair is "relaunching" his Government ready to "deliver" on the schools and hospitals which are fast descending into chaos, his flagship priority is to spend a year on an ideological crusade against hereditary peers.

We would have chosen neither this priority, nor this Bill. But, as with Labour's other ill-thought-through constitutional changes, we have to deal with the situation as we find it. That is why — if they are proposed — we will back Lord Weatherill's amendments to keep 100 hereditary peers in the interim House. This is not a trade union pact to preserve hereditaries. We want to avoid the country being left, indefinitely, with a totally nominated quango.

Hereditaries may seem outdated to modernisers. But it is part of our national tradition and every family's instinct. The fact that peers cannot be "deselected" assures their independence. Something at least as independent should come in their place. I know of no wholly nominated legislature that has any moral authority or standing. Certainly, Lord Irvine of Lairg and Baroness Jay of Paddington are no more "democratic" than I am.

No British politician since Cromwell has claimed the power Mr Blair now hopes to exercise — to determine the party balance and composition of a House of Parliament. The Prime Minister has become sensitive to this charge. He boasts that he will not exercise this huge growth of patronage to the full. He says he will subcontract the choice

of crossbench peers to a new committee. But who will appoint this great and good committee? Mr Blair? To whom will they be accountable? No one. Who will vet the peers they propose? Will the "independent" members they nominate have to declare their political and business links? If someone gave money to Labour years ago, but has never joined the party, could she be a "cross-bench" peer? Where would Bernie Ecclestone stand? Could he — who has done so much for motor-racing — be created a crossbench peer?

And what does Mr Blair want of a House of Lords? Unlike the previous Conservative Government, which accepted 40 per cent of its 250 defeats in the Lords, this Government has almost always insisted on having its way. This is true even when they are defeated on the votes of life peers alone. It is not the presence of hereditary peers that seems to rankle with Mr Blair so much as the thought that he might ever be asked to think again.

If the Lords is genuinely reformed, it will be made more powerful, the Commons still weaker. I would welcome a more powerful and independent chamber. But would Mr Blair? If he would, let him say so. He should do as Harold Wilson did on his Lords Reform Bill in 1968-69, come to Parliament and make a statement setting out where he stands and why.

It is still not too late for Mr Blair to shelve his "flagship" measure and to attend to the "real business" of jobs, schools and health. We have forced him to agree to set up a royal commission to look into the long-term future of the Upper House — that was not mentioned in his manifesto.

A commission is a good idea. It should have the widest possible terms of reference. It must have as a chairman a senior judge, whose independence from government cannot be impugned. It should be able to look at the powers, functions and composition of the House. It must look at the fallout from new parliaments and assemblies within our kingdom, and the impact of new Labour's surrender of further powers to Brussels.

It has a great task. In its hand may lie the key to rebalancing our tormented constitution and keeping our country one. In any sane scheme of things this process of thought and consultation would come before Parliament was changed, not after. But in the Walter Mitty world of spin and slogan we now seem to inhabit, action comes before thought. The Government's Bill will strengthen the patronage of the Prime Minister and the power of the executive. It will do nothing to advance the interests of the people Parliament should serve. But then isn't that increasingly the trademark of "new Labour"?

The author is the Tory Leader in the House of Lords.

Brown's Maddox's column will appear tomorrow.



Big bang theorist

Cook's foreign policy towards Kosovo has been reduced to a four-letter word

So what happens now? What has fate to offer the echoing threats of the laptop bombardiers?

Last October the might of the Anglo-American alliance reached a so-called agreement with the Yugoslav President, Slobodan Milosevic. It was a "Saddam", a jerrybuilt, heads-you-win, tails-we-lose deal, which came unstuck in next to no time. Hundreds more Kosovans are dead, tens of thousands homeless and Nato generals are again dancing attendance in Belgrade. The Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, is dancing too. Thumbing his battered lexicon, he incants "deeply foolish... unacceptable... shocking... murderous... horrific". Mr Cook redies all this with sombre mien, looks down at his word list and finds the armoury is bare. His mouth opens and shuts in silence. There is just a ghost whispering in his ear. "Real men drop bombs".

We are back to our old friend, the bomb. British foreign policy is now a four-letter word. So bankrupt is this neo-Falmerstonian stance, so counter-productive to its goals, so devoid of success, that it can only respond to 45 dead Albanians by threatening 45 dead Serbs. Policy is dumbed down to a bomb for a bomb and a corpse for a corpse. Dictators who sneer at Mr Cook's heat-seeking adjectives must feel the blast of his heat-seeking bombs.

Last year Mr Cook and other Nato bosses planned a bombing campaign whose goal was to force Belgrade to stop persecuting the separatist Kosovan Liberation Army (KLA) and to offer devolution without independence to Kosovo. A roughly similar prescription has defeated the Northern Ireland Office for 20 years. It was so unfeasible and unenforceable that the American envoy, Richard Holbrooke, had to race to Belgrade to make smoke for a Nato retreat. Mr Milosevic eats Western diplomats for breakfast. He promised and lied and Nato climbed down.

That October deal was as rotten as a deal could be. Monitors were sent (or rather sent back) to Kosovo without weapons or guards. The atrocities continued, with a horror that seems uniquely Balkan. Serbian withdrawal was a predictable sham. Devolution did not occur. Mr Holbrooke's appeasement of Mr Milosevic was staged to flatter Nato and Western politicians. It merely reassured Belgrade that the West had a big mouth but would not go to war. Yet it emboldened the KLA to think that, as in Bosnia, a few more

atrocities might jolt Nato into taking sides against the Serbs. The October deal sent the worst possible message to everyone. Mr Cook welcomed it. Nato must now decide whether to start the same disastrous round over again. There has been another apparent Serb atrocity in Kosovo. Mr Milosevic has done a Saddam, and expelled a monitor. Britain has declared its patience exhausted and resumed sabre-rattling. There is nothing in the United Nations Charter to give Britain and the United States the right to a unilateral attack on Yugoslavia for actions "essentially within the domestic jurisdiction" of that state. But the UN is a limp rag. As Mr Cook's approval of the American attack on Sudan showed, he is not over-concerned with international law. In defence of airstrikes he might plead Chapter Seven of the UN Charter, on protecting international security. But airstrikes are more likely to destabilise the region than calm it. It will encourage cross-border support for the KLA and inspire every separatist group in the Balkans.

As in Iraq, bombing is meaningless without military follow-up. The reason for bombing Yugoslavia is to alter the balance of power on the ground in Kosovo. That is achieved only by sending in troops. Such invasion is what the KLA has been encouraged by Mr Cook's policy to expect. Is it meant? If not, the threat cruelly invites KLA resurgence and ruthless Serbian suppression. But invasion cannot police an active civil war. It must either assist the KLA in the military dismembering of a European state. Or it must help the Serbs to restore Yugoslav sovereignty against KLA rebellion. Which of these dreadful goals is now British policy?

There is at present a Mediterranean country whose atrocities were daily on the television screens. It is called Lebanon. In the 1980s it

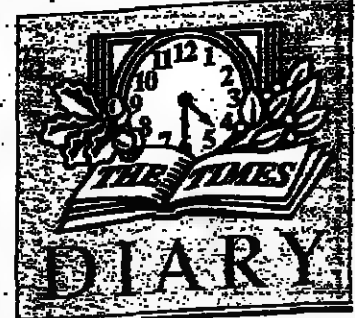
was racked by civil war, invaded by its neighbour Israel and threatened by Syria to the East. Syria was a pariah state whose dictator, General Assad, had mass-murdered his own people, sponsored anti-Western terrorism and destabilised his region. The West decided to save Lebanon from this horror. Interventions from 1982 to 1984 saw American, British, French and Italian troops struggling to keep the warring factions apart. The carnage continued. The atrocity rate soared. Nothing whatever was gained. The intervention was wholly inept. Western troops eventually withdrew in February 1984. The Foreign Secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, admitting that Beirut was "too dangerous". Within months, neighbouring Syria took effective control of northern Lebanon. Since then, Beirut has been returning to normal. General Assad is no longer a Saddam-like monster — any more than Saddam himself once was. He is regarded with good favour in Washington, a force for stability, possibly even a Middle East peace-broker.

Lebanon is not Yugoslavia. Any more than it is Bosnia or Iraq. But it offers a crude answer to those who claim there is no alternative to bombing. The alternative to bombing is not bombing. It is to remove the threat of military intervention, as in Lebanon. Many dictatorships in Asia and South America have contrived to make their own way towards democracy without the goad of Western bombs or sanctions. Prosperity, trade, contact and advancing political maturity have been sufficient. All are currently being denied to Belgrade. The thesis that a bombed, isolated, embattled and impoverished Yugoslavia is more, rather than less, sympathetic to Kosovan autonomy defies common sense. The thesis could be held only by an idiot, a Cabinet minister or a large body of "liberal" opinion.

comment@the-times.co.uk



Simon Jenkins



Freud slip

A GUILTY conscience? Lord Goodman — alleged to have siphoned £10 million from Viscount Portman — left a valuable Lucian Freud sketching of himself to Christopher Portman, the aggrieved viscount's heir. The vivid scribbling, one of four used by Freud towards a drawing for the National Portrait Gallery, was donated secretly to Portman, to the surprise of friends.

Lady Avon — Anthony Eden's widow who nursed Goodman to the end — admired the works and all assumed that she would inherit one. Instead, Lady A (pictured below with the artist) received 40 volumes of Trollope, poor dear.

Christopher realises how valuable it is. "Lady Portman assures me from Antigua: Why didn't the old rogue leave it to the viscount? 'Oh, I don't think he wanted it.' Wise. Inheritance tax being higher even than lawyers' bills."



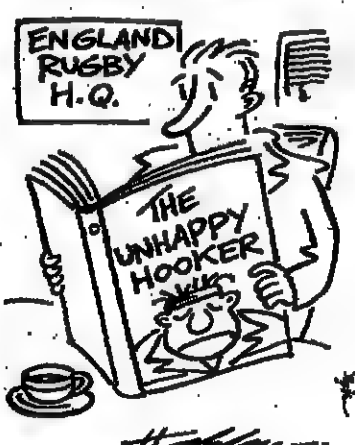
● THIS demise of Amanda Platell recalls a recent Spectator lunch when the Express on Sunday Editor fell into conversation with Charlie Whelan about Max Hastings, amiable Editor of the Evening Standard. Max could not last long, they concurred. Perhaps, but rather longer than both of them.

Cover up

LAP DANCING is hitting Hampstead. And the suburb's PC residents have begun a campaign to remove the joint. Secrets is just yards from South Hampstead High School. Peggy Jay, President of the Heath and Hampstead Society, is rallying her fully clad troops: "I have lived here for 80 years and it is not what we expect."

John Humphrys, the grand inquisitor, wishes them well, after protesting against Secrets' other club near his Hammersmith bachelor pad. "I am very annoyed about it. I wrote a tough piece excoriating them, but they cut out some phrases and turned them into approval," he said. "We had some success in court though. At least we got the judge to make the girls keep their knickers on." For that, I am sure all residents will be grateful.

● OFF to France to bag honorary degrees: the Archbishop of Canterbury, Cardinal Hume — and Lord St John of Fawley: "I'm the party's nonconformist conscience."



Dance flaw

THE Oxford Union is in a spin. The Austrian Ambassador is coming to its ball. Problem. Union President, Theo Mills, cannot dance; and as the ambassador is a Dr Eva Nowotny, Mills should lead her in the waltz.

Enter the Rev David Johnson who, with a stray cat, is teaching the pup. "It is like Steptoe trying to teach his father," wails Johnson.

● PETER MANDELSON is chums with his fellow bachelor, Sir Edward Heath, says Anthony Barnett in Prospect: "Both single. Both meretricious products of suburbia. Both able and obsessive. Each arrogant, lacking popular touch. Poor Peter: an insult too far."

Gay abandon

PLATO should be cited in sex education, says Roger Scruton. Greek love, then? Nope. The distinction between natural and perverted desire plays no part in current education. "Plato's teaching, that gays should sublimate their desires, is crucial: 'That is what Plato perceived, in his celebrations of the love that bears his name.' Can't see it catching on."

JASPER GERARD

'Let us not linger, for a very slightly familiar bald man in a floral pinny has come in to lay for lunch'

Reluctant as I am to offer further confirmation to those of you who feel I should get out more — throw myself into cribbage or Flamenco dancing, find a dog to walk, an instrument to master, a horse to hobby, anything rather than spend any more time woolgathering in my loft — I have to tell you (for it is my curse to do so) that in the summer of AD97,999 it will be possible to dig for wrinkles on Cricklewood beach.

I worked that out after only an hour or so this morning. It is not, of course, what I climbed up into the loft to do, what I planned to do in the loft was have a bit of a think about whether President Saddam Hussein might not in fact be Lord Lucan. They are, after all, identical and of an age, and it would explain much. But

while you may rest assured that I shall return to this theory at a later date, for the time being I prefer to nip forward 96,000 years to the time not yet being, so that I can trot downstairs from this loft, knot a handkerchief to my head, and go for a paddle. Because hardly had I begun investigating the likeliest fugitive route, in 1974, from Belgravia to Baghdad than a wheezing seagull suddenly shrieked outside my window, not merely raising my head from my atlas but also reminding me of a letter to *The Times* a week before, from the Chief Scientist of English Nature. I do not of course mean that it was the seagull's intention to do this, it was just an ordinary shriek. I mean only that my memory was jogged in that marine nano-second to the re-

marks of Dr Keith Duff, who had written to say that the recent erosion of Beachy Head was a natural force, and we should think twice before shoring the coastline up with concrete, learning instead "to live with change rather than always seeking to prevent it".

What could a wool-gatherer do at this recollection but slap shut his atlas and phone English Nature in Peterborough? And yes, though Dr Duff was not at his desk, I did eventually get through to a helpful chap who could answer my question. The answer is that our southern coastline is eroding at roughly a metre a year. So I thanked him,

Alan Coren



opened the atlas again, took a ruler, and noted that the distance between Beachy Head and Cricklewood, as the seagull flies, is 96km. By AD97,999, therefore, the sea will have reached my front gate. Or, rather, 207k below it, this being my gate's height above sea-level, according to an equally helpful chap at the Ordnance Survey office. My house, in short, will be perched on the White Cliffs of Cricklewood, overlooking a charming little South Coast resort.

Let us come down from the loft now, very slowly, three millennia a step, and look about us. See, my dining room contains not one large table but four small ones,

each with a bottle of HP Sauce chained to it, and a jug of plastic cornflowers, and a cruet set engraved "Seaview Boarding House". The walls once hung with pictures now sport framed notices: "Please Do Not Take Towels To Beach And Oblige" and "After Meals Ensure Your Serviette Is Replaced In Ring Provided". Let us, though, not linger, for a very slightly familiar bald man in a floral pinny has just come in to lay for lunch, and it is time for us to pop outside.

Oh, look, a fine summer morning, the sea-mist lifting to reveal Hendon Pier and the Edgware Lightship bobbing beyond, and the cheery strains of *William Tell* wafting up from the bandstand below, gilded gem of that fine broad

promenade which stretches all the way from Golders' Cove to Wembley Bay. Focus the big brass telescope standing on Seaview's fetchingly groomed front lawn, and what do we see? We see beach huts, and wheelie-stalls, and ice-cream cars, and striped wooden deckchairs, we see little ones cross-legged on the sand, hooting at Punch and Judy, and large ones wrapped in towels struggling to remove their trousers, we see pedalos and donkeys and a motor-boat rocking lazily beside a blackboard offering trips to Fitchley Island.

How reassuring it all is! How right Dr Duff was to urge us to live with change, for nothing really changes! Even though, as we step away from the telescope, a tiny piece of cliff beyond our feet breaks off, and falls.



HAGUE'S IDENTITY

Strong themes will achieve little without policy detail

Only a brave politician is willing to explore issues of identity and what it means to be British. As William Hague conceded last night, there used to be something very in-British about trying to define who the British are. The consequence of that embarrassed silence has been that a few, mostly academic, observers have been able to portray the United Kingdom as an artificial creation, built from opposition to Frenchmen and Catholics and lacking any form of coherent cultural core. It was partly that charge that the Conservative leader sought, in a well-crafted and eloquent address, to confront.

Mr Hague's willingness to undertake this task is welcome and his arguments are persuasive. A country that is about to undertake an era of intense constitutional change needs to have some sense of itself before deciding what sorts of institutions it seeks to abolish, change or create. The force of Mr Hague's text was also apparent in an effective rebuke to those within his party who would abandon Scotland outright and seek to expand and exploit an emerging sense of English nationalism. The dangerous fiction of the Shadow Cabinet with an English Parliament is at least at an end.

The Tory leader sought to draw distinctions between Britain's democratic traditions and those that pervade continental Europe. He did so not in a tone of splendid isolation or arrogant superiority but as a matter of simple fact. It is indeed the case that, as Mr Hague asserted, "where we invest our national identity in our political institutions, many other European countries have been let down by their political institutions within living memory". For that reason the constitutional implications of close integration within the European Union are more profound and more destabilising for Britain than for almost all of our neighbours.

This was also, however, a coded speech about the Conservative Party as well as the wider country. Mr Hague emphasised the

need for Conservatives to accept Britain in its modern form rather than wallow knee-deep in nostalgia. He acknowledged that his party had created the impression that it was "obsessed with economics" and implied that in future it would seek to fight on other fields, notably cultural and social values. He pointed in broad terms to the policy review ahead.

That examination should, in truth, have started already. The public still has little idea about what parts of the Tory past Mr Hague is willing to repudiate, still less what new ideas might be adopted. The Conservative Party listens to Mr Hague's message of change and inclusiveness and applauds politely. There is not much evidence that it is willing to undertake reform on anything like the scale that its leader rightly recognises must be done.

As a result, the Tory thinking appears to be on hold as Mr Hague awaits some movement in the polls that will in turn allow him more space for manoeuvre. Able spokesmen such as Ann Widdecombe and David Willetts have been put in high-profile posts but with precious little new that they are permitted to articulate.

There is a twofold danger in this strategy. Either the voters will not return to the fold without a clearer signal that the Conservatives have repented, or any small upward shift in public opinion will be seized upon by some in the parliamentary party as an alibi to postpone fundamental change once again.

Britain may not suffer from an identity crisis: but the condition of the Conservative Party is far less certain. It continues to be seen by a stark majority of voters, representing the last, discredited administration, not the official Opposition, and certainly not an alternative Government. Three years ago, when John Major invited a challenge to his leadership, his opponents responded with the prophetic slogan "no change, no chance". Those words are equally relevant to Tory policy today.

RETURN OF THE KING

As Jordan celebrates, it speculates

They danced in the streets, sang and cheered. The airport was filled with flags, bagpipers and banners and a million people lined the narrow streets of Amman to welcome their King. In all his 47 years on the throne, King Hussein of Jordan has never known a homecoming like this.

Returning after six months abroad, intensive cancer treatment and a taxing negotiating session to clinch the Wye accords, the King could scarcely contain his emotion. He is the world's longest-serving executive ruler in one of the world's most turbulent regions. Jordan is a country largely fashioned, held together and given patriotic substance by its monarch. The relationship has not always been easy. King Hussein has survived numerous assassination attempts, coup plots, uprisings and attacks by his neighbours.

He has been isolated in his support for the West, reviled by opponents of the Hashemite dynasty and denounced by Arab nationalists. He has seen his advisers murdered, had to give up claim to the West Bank and lost administrative control of the Muslim and Christian holy sites in Jerusalem. Yet he has brought a stability and prosperity to a country that has provided an oasis of moderation in a harsh desert of hatred. Jordanians know that they have been better ruled than any of their Arab neighbours. A quarter of the population filled the streets to give him a rancorous welcome. No drummed-up applause by vain dictators has matched anything like it.

Yet there was a poignancy to his return. The King has been proclaimed cured. He

does indeed look better than the pictures of the shrunken, bald figure who helped President Clinton get to agreement on an Israeli withdrawal last autumn. But the King himself already speaks of the time when he will no longer rule Jordan.

Like John of Gaunt looking with prophetic eye at the future, the King has awoken speculation about his successor. For years his youngest brother, Prince Hassan, has been the designated Crown Prince. After taking over day-to-day decision-making, he has ruled as regent for the past six months. On the whole, events have run smoothly during this time. But throughout Jordan there is recognition that the Oxford-educated Prince, a man short in charisma but long in verbosity, lacks the agility of his brother. He is a respected thinker, committed to peace with Israel. But in times of crisis he fails to inspire his countrymen.

Already destabilising rumours of dynastic struggle have begun. There is talk of rival aspirations for future succession between the sons of King Hussein and Prince Hassan and intrigue by their mothers. The King is thought now to hope that the Crown will pass directly to his 18-year-old son Hamza, who has impressed those around him with his charisma and young resemblance to his father. Any such change, however, could unleash corrosive ambitions that have so far been held in check in this extended family. The utmost delicacy is needed for any change, a quality for which the King has long been noted. It could be his last, most important service to his country.

FARMING FASHIONS

Diversity is agriculture's best option

Yesterday the Commons Agricultural Select Committee published a report on rural development. Agriculture, it recognised, is no longer the mainstay of rural society. Only through diversification will farmers find the means to survive. Some four fifths of Britain is currently farmed. The agricultural industry constitutes an important resource of land, capital and local knowledge. But it still remains largely untapped.

Farmers are notoriously sceptical of change. Long after hundreds of Londoners have made a scrummage through the organic stalls of Spitalfields market part of their weekend shopping routine, the leader column of *Farmers Weekly*, belatedly announces in the current issue that "organic systems have come of age". The staid publication, in large part financed by the advertising of agrochemical industries, reflects a significant shift in farmers' attitudes as it condones organic "muck and magic" as a "serious profit-generating operation". Battered by the beef ban, Asian market collapse and an over-strong pound, even the most traditional British farmers are looking to new initiatives as they struggle to save their businesses from bankruptcy.

Many are diversifying their stock and crop mixes. Deer, ostriches and alpaca are raised on land where cattle and sheep once grazed. Lupins and linseed are grown alongside cereals. High quality, locally

labelled food finds a specialist but growing market, and farm retail shops and kitchen restaurants are opening all over the country. Other farmers are catering for the tourist trade as barn conversions and caravan sites provide accommodation. Pets corners attract children. Miller mazes and rural cemeteries make more unusual options.

But diversification is not an instant panacea. Farmers hold one of the nation's most precious commodities in their safe-keeping, the landscape. Fields planted with plastic cloches may shield rows of delicate lettuces from harsh Welsh winds, but they despoil valley views. Off-track driving may bring extra income, but it destroys rural peace. The countryside is not a playground.

Farmers are the stewards of moors and mountains, fields and fens. But this stewardship comes at a price. While many wait for the European Union to come to its senses with a system of CAP reform that will not just benefit big producers, the British Government must help to tide low-intensity farmers over difficult times. The subsidies it offers must be far more specifically targeted — not simply directed at the end product. They must be meted out in such a way that they help to protect the lifestyles of those such as hill farmers whose traditional agricultural practices preserve the beauty of the British landscape as we know it now.

Call to close secure training centres

From the Social Policy Manager of The Children's Society

Sir, The Government's announcement that it intends to send in the riot police to control children at the Medway Secure Training Centre in Kent shows, as your report of January 14, rightly points out, how illusory the progressive dreams of the secure training centres (STCs) have proved. In fact, the centre should never have been built.

If those of us who work with disturbed and damaged children are going to make a difference to these children's lives we need to provide small units where children will respond to individual attention. Put a large group of damaged and disturbed children together and you have a tinderbox. Bad behaviour inevitably breeds worse behaviour.

The Children's Society made these views clear when the centres were first announced under the previous Government, as did magistrates, other children's charities and penal reform groups. In opposition, a member of the current Government described them as "colleges of crime". Despite these warnings, the Government not only opened Medway STC, it is planning several similar centres.

This Government has talked a great deal about individual responsibility. To provide an unsuitable service to these disturbed children and then to threaten to send in the riot police is an abnegation of its own responsibility. It is iniquitous for this Government to turn round and blame disturbed children who have been left in an institution that is known to be failing them.

The only solution to this problem is to close down the secure training centres in favour of small units which can respond to these damaged children as individuals.

Yours faithfully,
ROGER SMITH,
Social Policy Manager,
The Children's Society,
Edward Rudolf House,
Margery Street, WC1X 0JL,
January 14.

Kosovo's children

From the Deputy Director of Unicef-UK

Sir, As dozens of vulnerable women and children flee Kosovo (letter, January 19), Kosovo's children — both Albanian and Serb — are again caught in the crossfire. They are at risk not only from mortars, but also from silent killers like pneumonia, typhoid, hepatitis, and the highest incidence of polio in Europe.

Visiting Kosovo, even during the ceasefire, I found severely traumatised children. They were untypically quiet, too scared to play, and racked with bronchitis and acute respiratory diseases. The fragile peace enabled the launch of an immunisation campaign, restocking of health centres and restarting of education.

Yet, last week, even before the Kosovo killings, our field workers were repeatedly prevented from reaching outlying areas. Now we fear that the explosive political climate will trigger greater uncertainty and deprivation for children. It is hoped that the politicians negotiating peace and aid for Kosovo will put the needs of children — for shelter, medicines, education and safety — first.

Yours sincerely,
MARIE STAUNTON,
Deputy Director,
Unicef-UK,
55 Lincoln's Inn Fields, WC2A 3NB,
January 18.

A doctor in the House?

From Dr C. J. Barrow

Sir, Having clearly stated: "I have a degree and a PhD", Ms Dawn Primarolo was asked by Valerie Grove (interview, January 9) why she didn't use the title of Doctor.

She replied: "Because I didn't actually submit my thesis... but my excuse is that two years into it I was elected".

Given the earlier claim, this is rather like saying I have a GCSE but failed to sit the exams.

Yours faithfully,
CHRIS BARROW,
20 Coed Mor,
Derwen Fawr, Sketty,
Swansea SA2 8BQ,
January 9.

Many happy returns?

From Mr Prentis Hancock

Sir, Mr J. R. Callin is at liberty to look forward to any set date he chooses for the return to their homelands of exiled Scots and Welsh (letter, January 15).

In the interim, he might like to consider the effects on the world, let alone on Britain, should the Scottish diaspora decide to up sticks and return to their clans.

Who would run things? Westminster might be hard put to find a Cabinet.

Yours ay,
PRENTIS HANCOCK,
Flat B, 10 Tadema Road,
World's End,
Chelsea, SW10 0NU.
prentisworldend@a-net.com
January 15.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Hume's relationship with Carey

From Mr Martin Pendergast

Sir, I suspect Cardinal Hume will have raised an eyebrow, one of his more common gestures of disapproval, when reading Ann Widdecombe's perception of Anglican-Roman Catholic relations report, "Hume denies he has contempt for Carey", January 14.

Behind the simple Benedictine image of the cardinal is a consummate yet sensitive politician, a quality which Miss Widdecombe might seek to emulate.

I suggest her view of the cardinal's appreciation of the Archbishop of Canterbury reflects more her disaffected Anglican outlook and the axes which she continues to grind.

Yours sincerely,
MARTIN PENDERGAST,
57 Lyme Grove, E9 6PX,
January 14.

From Sir Robin Day

Sir, In an extract from the new book about Cardinal Basil Hume which you printed with special prominence on January 14, the cardinal is said to have described in 1977 how he had been interviewed by me about celi-

bacy, in a way which was "potentially embarrassing".

This, insofar as it refers to me, is untrue. I have never interviewed the cardinal. I am informed that he was astonished, as was I, to read this story.

The author, Mr Neil Balfour, has apologised to me for his mistake. He appears to have confused my name with that of some other interviewer. Whoever did the objectionable interview, it was definitely not me.

Yours truly,
ROBIN DAY,
Garrick Club, WC2E 9AY,
January 15.

From Mr Richard Willmott

Sir, How unfortunate it is that Ann Widdecombe cannot emulate her hero and let her contempt for the Archbishop of Canterbury never be "publicly discernible".

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD WILLMOTT
(Headmaster),
The Dixie Grammar School,
Market Bosworth,
Leicestershire CV13 0LE,
January 14.

Legal basis for 'presumed consent' of organ donors

From Professor Margaret Esiri and others

Sir, There is another aspect to the question of donors' "presumed consent" (letters, January 13). This concerns the use of tissue for research rather than for transplantation.

We are engaged in research that aims to increase understanding of schizophrenia by studying brain tissue from sufferers after death (and tissue from healthy persons unaffected by this devastating disease, for comparative purposes). This is extremely difficult to acquire, largely because permission is needed from next-of-kin at a time when they are likely to be distressed by their recent bereavement.

Some doctors and nurses understandably hesitate to ask for this permission for fear of increasing distress or because they are unaware of the need for such tissue.

If there was legislation that enabled tissue to be made available for medical research as long as no objection

had been made known, research such as ours would receive a considerable boost and improved understanding of schizophrenia and other brain diseases be brought that much closer.

Yours sincerely,
MARGARET ESIRI
(Professor of Neuropathology,
Oxford University),
TIM CROW
(Professor of Psychiatry,
Oxford University),
PAUL HARRISON
(Reader in Psychiatry,
Oxford University),
Schizophrenia Research Group,
Radcliffe Infirmary,
Oxford OX2 6HE.
margaret.esiri@clinical-neurology.oxford.ac.uk
January 14.

From Dr David W. Evans

Sir, The presumption of consent to anything seems to me to be a very dangerous development and I wonder

The Jacqueline we remember

From Mr Julian Lloyd Webber and others

Sir, *Hilary and Jackie*, a film purporting to chronicle the life of cellist Jacqueline du Pré and based on a book by her brother and sister, is to be released this week. It concentrates heavily on an affair which Jacqueline had with her sister's husband and portrays her as selfish, spoilt and manipulative.

This is not the Jacqueline du Pré that we, as her friends and colleagues, knew.

Jacqueline possessed a wonderful joy in making music and a unique ability to bring that joy to her audience. This is the Jacqueline du Pré that we remember.

Yours,
JULIAN LLOYD WEBBER,
YEHUDI MENUHIN,
ITZHAK PERLMAN,
WILLIAM PLEETH,
P. ZUKERMAN,
c/o JMC Artists,
Media House,
3 Burlington Lane, W4 2TH,
January 18.

Owners' rights

From Mr Neil Howlett

Sir, Anthea Lawson's amusing article (Weekend, January 9) about Mr Sam Granton, who intended to purchase the lease of a flat in southeast London which he then discovered to be situated above a brothel, raises an interesting issue for lawyers and all potential purchasers of a house or flat.

The buyer of a detached house may have no easy redress against anti-social neighbours. However, the buyer of a flat in a building or of a house in a development can and should acquire rights to prevent any such misbehaviour, and the lease should include "covenants" (promises) designed for that purpose. So should the transfers of houses on any well prepared estate development, giving the owner the right to take action directly against other owners who break restrictions on the use of their property.

At the very least, tenants or owners should have the right to require the

freeholder or developer to take action against other tenants or owners.

The kind of restrictions imposed will normally prohibit illegal or immoral activity, although this may not always help those in a similar position to Mr Granton: prostitution in itself is not illegal, so a prostitute operating alone is not breaking the law. However, anyone living with the prostitute and living off his or her earnings will be.

Causing nuisance — such as excessive numbers of or abusive visitors, especially at odd hours — may also be prohibited. So may running a business. In most cases the covenants will restrict such activities, not only by the owner but those permitted by the owner. The key to success is to have records taken at the time which will prove the case.

Yours sincerely,
NEIL HOWLETT,
Harris and Harris (solicitors),
11 Stony Street,
Frome, Somerset BA11 1BU,
January 10.

Advance intelligence

From Mr Robert Vincent

Sir, The news that their Government has ordered Chinese airline bosses to fly on New Year's Day in order to calm passengers' trepidation about the millennium bug (report, January 16) must surely be welcomed in Europe.

China's midnight comes some seven or eight hours before ours: so if their millennium bug causes anything to go wrong we'll be sure to hear of it pretty quickly, and consequently have plenty of time to land safely ourselves.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT VINCENT,
Dilly House, Wildern,
Andover, Hampshire SP11 0JF,
January 16.

Wigs for judges

From Mr Andrew Mier

Sir, In claiming that wigs make judges appear out of touch with the country inhabited by the litigants (report, January 12, Sir Richard Scott, Vice-Chancellor of the Supreme Court, is presumably referring to civil litigation).

In criminal cases, where the defendants have a choice, most who contest the charges elect trial before a Crown Court judge who wears a wig, rather than before magistrates who do not.

Perhaps the lesson is that litigants are more concerned about the perceived quality of justice in the courts than in fashionable ideas about dressing to be in touch with the world.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW MIER,
Gray's Inn Chambers,
Gray's Inn, WC1R 5JR,
January 12.

Millennium Bart

From Dr Morley Halse

Sir, Seeing the *Simpsons* featured in Saturday's megasection of *The Times* serves to remind us that the year 2000 is significant only as a result of a long process of evolution that has given us four fingers and a thumb on each hand.

If, like Bart Simpson, we had four digits per hand, base eight arithmetic would be universal.

Next year would then be 3720 and so nothing particularly special.

Yours sincerely,
MORLEY HALSE,
6 Ashbee Gardens,
Herne Bay,
Kent CT20 6TU.
m.halse@uk.ac.uk
January 11.

From His Honour Anthony Tibber

Sir, I have just retired from the circuit bench. For many years I wore a wig when entering court (that was my concession to convention) but removed it in the early stages of the proceedings and sat for most of the day bareheaded. Some counsel glared and kept their wigs on, others, with a sigh of (I think) relief, took them off.

I know of no power and no authority which can tell a judge that he or she must wear a wig. If those judges who wish to get rid of the wig simply ceased to wear them, most of the remaining judges would probably follow suit.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY TIBBER,
22 Holmwood Gardens, N3 3NS,
January 12.

Letters may be faxed to 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

Drink-drive limit

From Mr Peter McKellican

Sir, Last April I was banned from driving for a year. I had been 50 per cent over the limit — not roaring drunk, but I know the law and it was a "hair cop".

I travel widely in Europe, and I endorse your sentiments (leading article, "Know your limit", January 8) that, far from following any perceived lead from Europe by lowering our limit, we should seek to persuade our European partners to adopt some of our policies. Every time I explain my predicament to European business partners, be they French, Dutch, Spanish, Italian or German, they are astonished by our 12-month minimum ban.

I am sure that the success of drink-driving campaigns in Britain is largely due to the quite correct severity of the punishment. Our hard-hitting television campaigns are non-existent in France. Their limit may well be lower than ours, but if anyone were arrested and found to be slightly over it, they would in reality face a maximum ban of three months.

As a nation, our attitude to drinking and driving has changed for the better. Long may this continue. The attitude in much of mainland Europe has not, and until they follow our lead, will not.

Yours faithfully,
PETER MCKELLICAN,
105 Knightrich Church Road,
Leicester LE2 3JN.

Something to chew on

From Dr R. J. S. Chinn

Sir, "I bet my ear to a bag of sweets," says Mr Mike Burton, former England prop forward (report, January 19), that the dispute between the Rugby Football Union and the Five Nations Committee will be short-lived.

Given the state of most prop forwards' ears, I know I for one would rather have the bag of sweets.

Yours faithfully,
ROGER CHINN,
86 Beryl Road, W6 8JU.
r.chinn@ac.uk
January 19.

Problem shelved

From Major-General I. S. Harrison, Royal Marines (ret'd)

Sir, Mr R. J. Slade (letter, January 18) reports finding Worcestershire sauce in a supermarket food section headed "Mexico".

In my post-retirement capacity as Director General of the British Food Export Council, I visited a supermarket in southern Italy, where I found Birds Custard on shelves reserved for petfoods.

Yours sincerely,
I. S. HARRISON,
Minor Cottage, Runtton,
Chichester, West Sussex PO20 6PU,
January 18.



COURT CIRCULAR

SANDRINGHAM HOUSE
January 19: Mrs Robert de Pass has succeeded Mrs Christian Adams as Lady in Waiting to the Queen.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
January 19: The Prince of Wales, Patron, the Almshouse Association, this morning visited the Great Hospital, Norwich, to mark its 750th anniversary year.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

January 19: The Princess Royal, Colonel in Chief, The Royal Logistic Corps, today visited The Princess Royal Barracks Gutersloh, Germany.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE, RICHMOND PARK
January 19: Princess Alexandra, President, this morning visited the Royal Star and Garter Home for Disabled Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen, Richmond, Surrey.

Today's royal engagements

The Princess Royal, as patron, Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health, will attend an International Task Force Symposium at 30 Halden Street, London, W1, at 11.00; and will attend the Rare Breeds Survival Trust's Horse and Sheep Appeal at Saddlers' Hall, Gunter Lane, London EC2, at 12.15.

Princess Margaret, as president, Friends of the Elderly, will visit the Old Vicarage, the society's newly rebuilt home in Moulsham, Oxfordshire, and will open the new dementia care unit.

Tom Johnson-Gilbert

A service of thanksgiving for the life and work of Tom Johnson-Gilbert will be held at noon on Wednesday, February 10, at St Botolph-without-Aldersgate, in St Martins Le Grand, EC1.

Paul McKee

A memorial service will take place for Paul McKee, a former Deputy Chief Executive of ITN and Deputy Managing Director of Yorkshire Television, at noon on Tuesday, February 23, at St Bride's Church, Fleet Street, London EC4. Those wishing to attend should contact Pauline Heard on 0171 430 4750.

Birthdays today

Dr Buzz Aldrin, former astronaut, 69; Mr Aubrey Bailey, conservation officer, 87; Mr Tom Baker, actor, 63; Lord Justice Chadwick, 58; Air Chief Marshal Sir David Cusins, 57; Mr Derek Dougan, former football manager and player, 61; the Rev Dr D.L. Edwards, former Provost of Southwark Cathedral, 70; Lord Ewing of Kirkcaldy, 68; Sir David Fell, chairman, Northern Bank, 56; the Hon Sir Henry Fisher, former President, Woburn College, Oxford, 81; Miss Liza Goddard, actress, 49; Lord Hanson, 76; the Marquess of Headfort, 67; Major Dick Hurn, former racehorse trainer, 67; Mr J.K. Idd, former headmaster, Dover College, 64; Air Vice-Marshal the Ven B.F. Lucas, former Chaplain-in-Chief, RAF, 95; Mr David Lynch, film producer, 53; Commandant Gloria McBride, former director, WRNS, 68; Mr Christopher Martin-Jenkins, cricket commentator, 54; Mr Max

Morrison, Governor, Parkhurst prison, 55; Dr Jessica Rawson, FBA, 54; Mrs Rosemary Rawson, 54; Mr Natan Sharansky, Israeli Minister for Trade and Industry, 51; Professor N.C. Wickramasinghe, astronomer, 68; Mr John Witherspoon, Editor, The Sunday Times, 47.

Service luncheon

International Military Music Society
Lieutenant A.D. Henderson, Director of Music of the Band of HM Royal Marines Commando Training Centre, was the host at a luncheon held yesterday at Royal Marines Commando Training Centre, Lympstone, Devon, for members of the United Kingdom branch of the International Military Music Society. Afterwards Mr John Ambler, chairman of the society, presented commemorative plaques to the Royal Marines Band.

Morrison, Governor, Parkhurst prison, 55; Dr Jessica Rawson, FBA, 54; Mrs Rosemary Rawson, 54; Mr Natan Sharansky, Israeli Minister for Trade and Industry, 51; Professor N.C. Wickramasinghe, astronomer, 68; Mr John Witherspoon, Editor, The Sunday Times, 47.



Judges carefully examining exhibits at the Royal Horticultural Society Flower Show yesterday

Brilliant colours beat winter's chill

By ALAN TOOGOOD

HORTICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

IN THE middle of this wild wet winter when gardening is mainly out of the question, the Royal Horticultural Society's Flower Show is an uplifting experience with the first flowers of the year — snowdrops, hellebores, hardy cyclamen and winter aconites — creating sheets of brilliant colour.

A major display of hellebores, mainly their own Ashwood Garden Hybrids, has been staged by Ashwood Nurseries, of Kingswinford, West Midlands. Its hellebore expert, Kevin Belcher, pointed out its newest hybrid double flowered, with colours ranging from almost black to cream and pale yellow; anemone-centred in a fine selection of colours; and flowers with very dark centres. This gold medal display also features a new hellebore from America, *Helleborus Argutifolius* "Pacific Frost", whose leaves are finely marbled with cream. Not one of the best looking variegated plants available.

It nevertheless has poverty value. The collection of hellebores being assembled by Miss Veronica Read, of South Harrow, Middlesex, has recently been given National Collection status. Part of the collection of these tender bulbs can be seen at the show which opened in Westminster yesterday. Two new hybrids are being shown for the first time: *Helleborus* "Lima" with spidery flowers in pale green, boldly streaked with dark red, bred in the U.S., and "Fairytale" from The Netherlands, whose cream flowers are boldly striped with rich orange. Hellebores make ideal house plants, being quick and easy to grow, and indeed Miss Read's collection of some 300 plants is grown in her flat.

The tapestry-like exhibit of conifers — a rich assemblage of colours, textures and shapes — from Lincolden Nursery, of Bisleigh Green, Surrey, has been awarded a gold medal.

A unique exhibit of paintings from members of the Chelsea Physic Garden

Society, of London, has also received a gold medal. It comprises water-colour paintings of plants in the Chelsea Physic Garden associated with Philip Miller (1691-1771). Miller was appointed Gardener to the Physic Garden in 1722 and over the next 40 years developed it into one of the finest botanical gardens in the world. The Florilegium Society was formed in 1995 to illustrate the garden's flora. Its 54 members donate paintings annually to the archive.

Other artists awarded gold medals are Francesca Anderson, of Brooklyn, New York, and ink drawings of Brassicae Evelyn Binn, Botanical Water Colours, of Clitheroe, Lancashire; Brigitte Daniel, of North Leigh, Oxfordshire (watercolour paintings of the Solanaceae family); and Regine Hagedorn, of Villes, France (aquarelle paintings of roses).

The show, in the New Horticultural Hall, Greycoat Street, Westminster, is open today from 10am to 5pm.

Dinner

Company of Tobacco Pipe

Makers and Tobacco Blenders

Mr Simon Orlik, Master of the

Company of Tobacco Pipe Makers

and Tobacco Blenders, presided at

a dinner held last night at

Palmer's Hall, Mr Alexander

Gooboy was the principal guest

and speaker. Assistant John

Alexander also spoke. Among others

present were:

Mr Tommy Colson, Headmaster of

Spalding School, Spalding, Lincolnshire

Mr David Widdows, Director of

the company's schools, the Superintendent of

the Company of London's Pipe Makers

and the Masters and Clerks of the

Distillers' and Vintners' Companies

Mr Alexander Leslie, Master of the

Clothworkers' Company, read the

lesson and Lord Denham gave an

address. Among others present

were:

Miss Vanessa Woodhouse, Parish

clerk, Mr and Mrs David

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Memorial service

address. Among others present

were:

Miss Vanessa Woodhouse, Parish

clerk, Mr and Mrs David

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Woodhouse, Mr Jonathan

Forthcoming marriages

Mr J.T.G. Allen and Miss K.S.E. Fiddes Payne. The engagement is announced between James, only son of Mr Richard Allen and the late Mrs Allen, of Bramfield, Suffolk, and Katharine, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Keith Fiddes Payne, of Warrington, Warwickshire.

Mr Z. Bobolakis and Miss A.M. Bainbridge. The engagement is announced between Zacharias, son of Mr and Mrs Sophocles Bobolakis, of Chania, Crete, and Anna Maria, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Andrew Bainbridge, of Belling, London.

Mr R.A. Foster and Miss M.J. Rayner. The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Mr and Mrs Brian Foster, of Stamford, Lincolnshire, and Melissa, daughter of Mr and Mrs Tony Rayner, of Adelaide, South Australia.

Mr M.J. Harford and Miss L.R. Langford. The engagement is announced between Mark, elder son of Sir Timothy and Lady Harford, of Evesham, Worcestershire, and Louise, daughter of Mr and Mrs Robert Langford, of Tadworth, Surrey.

Mr J.T. Hobson and Miss K. Tanaka. The engagement is announced between Jake, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Tim Hobson, of Halstock, Dorset, and Kiko, younger daughter of the late Mr Kanichi Tanaka and of Mrs Tanaka, of Osaka, Japan.

Mr J.N. Ker and Miss L.R. Hunt. The engagement is announced between Jonathan, youngest son of the late Mr K.R. Welbore-Ker and of Mrs Welbore-Ker, of London, and Isobel, daughter of Mr and Mrs Jeremy Hunt, of London.

Mr D.W.J. O'Dea and Miss M.J. Pacht. The engagement is announced between Daniel, younger son of Colonel M.J.M. O'Dea, OBE, and Mrs O'Dea, of Fleet, Hampshire, and Marianne, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs W.G. Pacht, of Brussels, Belgium.

Mr M.A. Stevenson and Miss J.A. Simpson. The engagement is announced between Mark, younger son of Mr Ronald Stevenson and Mrs Jean Stevenson, both of Inverness, and Julia, only daughter of Mr and Mrs James Simpson, of Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire.

Mr J.G. Britton and Miss F.S. Kerr. The engagement is announced between James, only son of Mr and Mrs Julian Britton, of Oxford, and Fiona, daughter of Mr and Mrs George Kerr, of Dalston, Carlisle.

Mr S. Nepp and Miss S. Pokrantz. The engagement is announced between Bruce, son of Mr and Mrs Donald Nepp, of California, USA, and Sygum, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Pokrantz, and Mr Robert Dunn, of Tenterden, Kent.

Mr J.M.E. Pease and Miss N.J. Magee. The engagement is announced between Jonathan, son of Mr and Mrs P.J.B.L. Pease, of Craighead House, Striving, and Nicola, daughter of Mr and Mrs J.A. Magee, of St Leonards, Devon.

Mr H.C. Cavendish and Miss H.C. Cavendish. The engagement is announced between Huw, son of Dr and Mrs Dick van Steenis, of Pembrokeshire, and Camilla, daughter of Richard Cavendish, of Kensington, and Mavis Cavendish, of Fulham.

Mr A.J. Woods and Miss M.J. Thompson. The engagement is announced between Anthony, son of Mr and Mrs Peter Woods, of Roseale Inn, Danby, and Mary, daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Thompson, of Bodgers Wood, Chinnor.

Mr C.P. Jenkins and Miss A. Love. The marriage took place on January 5, in Manhattan, New York, between Craig, eldest son of Mr and Mrs J.E. Jenkins, of West Sussex, and Amanda, eldest daughter of Mrs C.A. Greenman, of Bristol.

Mr R.D.J. McFarlane and Miss L.J. Baker. The marriage took place at All Saints' Church, Odham, on Saturday, January 16, of Mr David McFarlane, younger son of Mr and Mrs Dennis McFarlane, of Boars Hill, Oxford, to Miss Lucinda Baker, daughter of Mr and Mrs Christopher Baker, of Odham, Hampshire. Canon Michael Bever officiated, assisted by Canon Ray Hubble.

The bride, who was given away by her father, was attended by Rosamund, Francesa and Charlie Baker. Harriet Campbell, Sophie Chance, Oliver Chalkham, Georgina Davis, Henry Holmes, Charlie Palmer and Edward Stansfield. Mr Andrew McFarlane was best man. A reception was held at the home of the bride and the honeymoon is being spent abroad.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Wolfe Tone, Irish nationalist, Dublin, 1763; André-Marie Ampère, physicist, Lyons, 1775; Joy Adamson, naturalist and writer, Austria, 1910; Roy Plomley, creator of Desert Island Discs, Kingston-upon-Thames, 1914; John Hall, Olympic swimming champion and actor, Florida, 1944.

DEATHS: David Garrick, actor-manager, London, 1779; John

Howard, philanthropist and penal reformer, Kew, Surrey, 1790; Sir John Lubbock, archaeologist, London, 1837; Jean François Millet, painter, Barbizon, 1875; R.D. Blackmore, novelist, Teddington, Middlesex, 1900; John Ruskin, critic and writer, Coniston, Cumbria, 1900; Johnny Weissmuller, Olympic swimming champion and actor, Florida, 1984.

BMDs: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

I will remember the words of the LORDS surely I will remember thy wonders of old, I will mention them in thy work, and talk of thy doings. Psalms 77, 11-12 (AV).

BIRTHS

ALISAPARIS - On January 18th at The Portland Hospital to Susan (née Green) and Patrick, a son, Laurence, a brother for Flahar.

BAINBRIDGE - On 16th January 1999, to Sophie (née Miles) and James, a son, a brother for Isabelle and Edward.

BETTINGHURST - On January 15th at The Portland Hospital to Helen and Bruce, a son, Alexander, a big brother for Bruce.

BOLTON - On December 27th in Chorlton, Bolton to Janet (née Davis) and Andrew, a son Mark Edward John.

BOYLE - On January 14th at The Portland Hospital to Susan (née Green) and Patrick, a son, Laurence, a brother for Flahar.

CHITNEY - On 18th January 1999 in the Chelsea and Westminster

سازمان رانندگان

Secure training centres; Hume and Carey; organ donors; house owners' rights; Kosovo; drink-drive limit; millennium bug..... Page 19

66

هكذا من الأصل

THE TIMES

INSIDE
SECTION
2
TODAY



ECONOMICS
Janet Bush finds it
hard to be scared
about a recession
PAGE 27



ARTS
Harsh realities
of life in a
great orchestra
PAGES 33-35



SPORT
Gough's burst
keeps England
well on course
PAGES 39-44

**TELEVISION
AND
RADIO**
Pages
42, 43

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 20 1999

AtHome creates Web giant with £4bn deal

FROM OLIVER AUGUST
IN NEW YORK

ATHOME, the Internet service provider controlled by AT&T, yesterday agreed to buy Excite, the loss-making Internet search company linked to BT, for \$6.7 billion (£4 billion) in the biggest online merger.

November, now worth about \$6.6 billion after the recent surge in Internet shares. Online consolidation is expected to drive technology stocks to new heights and valuation records.

The AtHome-Excite merger also marks the deepening of the alliance between BT and AT&T. The two transatlantic telecom leaders last year agreed to expand their traditional phone service in tandem but stopped short of a merger. BT owns

a 50 per cent stake in Excite UK, which it acquired for \$10 million. Under the terms of the deal, AtHome will issue 1.04 of its shares for each Excite share, valuing them at \$106.27, a 57 per cent premium to the last closing price. At the start of trading yesterday, shares jumped to \$106 before falling back to about \$95.

According to the agreement, the deal will be whisked through and is supposed to be completed in three months. The completion would almost coincide with the closure of the \$32 billion AT&T takeover of TCI. The cable company is AtHome's biggest shareholder.

The Excite acquisition forms part of AT&T's new strategy to belatedly seek leadership of the Internet sector. Michael Armstrong, the executive chairman appointed last year, tied the phone giant's future to new media with the TCI deal.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	6027.8	(-96.3)
Yield	2.71%	
FTSE All Share	2730.73	(-37.86)
Nikkei	13770.44	(-19.82)
Dow Jones	9222.49	(-88.09)
S&P Composite	1238.32	(-3.54)

Inflation increase leads to fears of delay in rate cut

By ALASDAIR MURRAY
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

INFLATION unexpectedly climbed above target in December, raising fears that the Bank of England may delay further interest rate cuts.

The annual rate of underlying inflation, which excludes mortgage interest payments, increased from 2.5 per cent in November to 2.6 per cent, the first time it has breached the target level since last July.

However, headline inflation continued to decline, reaching 2.3 per cent compared with 3.0 per cent the previous month, as mortgage costs continue to slide.

The chief cause of the rise was an 11 per cent jump in seasonal food prices. Household goods prices also climbed as retailers tried to push through pre-Christmas price rises.

The figures pushed the pound higher. The euro slid to 69.99p against sterling, its lowest closing level since the pound also rose from \$1.6515 to \$1.6583.

The data, coupled with the problems in Brazil, helped to depress the stock market, with the FTSE 100 closing down 96.3 points to 6,027.8.

City analysts and business groups were quick, however, to claim the figures were a blip and that the Bank should not hold off from making further rate cuts.

Bae under attack after £7bn merger with GEC



High-fliers: Lord Simpson of Dunkeld, chief executive of GEC, parent group of Marconi, left, and Sir Richard Evans, chairman of British Aerospace

BRITISH AEROSPACE was yesterday hit by accusations that its £7 billion merger with the Marconi Electronic Systems arm of GEC has damaged British, German and French Government hopes of greater industrial co-operation within Europe.

British Aerospace shares also fell nearly 14 per cent, wiping about £750 million from the original value of its bid, and claims it had overpaid.

The Marconi deal will create the world's third-biggest aerospace company by sales, behind Boeing and Lockheed Martin of the US.

Before Christmas, Bae had been in merger talks with Dasa, the German aerospace group owned by DaimlerChrysler, but these were left behind when GEC emerged as a willing suitor.

Yesterday, the jilted Dasa gave warning: "If the Bae/GEC merger proceeds as announced, it will make balanced European horizontal mergers such as Dasa-Bae impossible and create an obstacle to European integration."

One analyst at a London broker said the decision to link the

two British companies would delay European consolidation. The UK Government is keen for cross-border alliances to be formed.

GEC will demerge Marconi Electronic Systems before selling it. GEC shareholders will then exchange their stake in Marconi for 1.17 billion new shares in Bae - about 36.7 per cent of the merged group, which will be known as New British Aerospace.

They will also get about £440 million of loan stock. Marconi will also be loaded with £1.55 billion of net debt, releasing cash to the rump GEC group, which will focus on telecommunications and electronics.

Lord Simpson of Dunkeld, the chief executive of GEC, played down speculation that

GEC might bid for Rascal's telecoms arm. He will have £2.657 billion in cash for acquisitions and said yesterday that it is his intention to create a business twice the size of "old GEC" before he retires.

Lord Simpson, 56, is better known for disposing of businesses than buying them. He managed the sale of Rover to BMW when at British Aerospace. He said: "I hope people are going to see the business development side of George Simpson."

Low-growth businesses at GEC, such as its Hotpoint washing machines arm, will be placed in a new division, GEC Capital.

Bae responded to claims that it had overpaid by saying the deal should lead to annual

cost savings of £275 million by the third year, although there will be a one-off £200 million cost to achieve this. Marconi Electronic Systems had sales of £3.685 billion in 1998, making a profit of £418 million before tax and interest. Bae still wants to merge with Dasa.

New British Aerospace will employ about 100,000 people and have a turnover of £12.4 billion and profits of £968 million on 1997 figures. John Weston, chief executive of Bae, said few job losses were likely. Earnings per share should be enhanced by more than 10 per cent in the third year with neutral effect in the first year.

GEC will keep the Marconi brand name. Michael Lester and Sir Charles Masfield will join Peter Gershon, the Marconi Electronic Systems managing

director in moving from the GEC board to the New Bae board.

Michael Blogg, an analyst at Charterhouse Titney, said: "I think Bae has paid a full price but strategically I think they can justify it."

Pamature Gordon, the broker, said it welcomed the deal.

Another analyst, who preferred not to be named, said Bae had "very much" overpaid: "A fairer price would have been £6 billion."

It is not yet clear whether the European Commission or the UK Government will have jurisdiction over the deal.

It is understood that the Government will refuse to say that the merger will escape a referral to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission in answer to a parliamentary question tomorrow.

It is also not yet clear how much will be paid to the advisers on the deal. Bae employed Dresdner Kleinwort Benson and Goldman Sachs. GEC employed Warburg Dillon Read and Morgan Stanley.

Grid looks for £1.2bn from sale of Energis

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

NATIONAL GRID is to raise £1.2 billion by selling a chunk of Energis, the telecoms company, in a move that will fund a rapid expansion in the US and other overseas markets.

It could spend £500 million of the proceeds as early as next month on an electricity business in Massachusetts. Stephen Box, finance director, revealed that the company, which controls electricity transmission, was close to a second purchase in New England after its £2.7 billion takeover of New England Electricity System, which was announced last month.

The sale of up to 75 million shares in Energis - in which the Grid has a 75 per cent stake - should net about £800 million profit for the company and will be in two tranches. The Grid will simultaneously convert its Energis preference shares to ordinary shares and reduce its holding to between 45 per cent and 49 per cent.

The sale has been prompted by the soaring value of telecoms shares and the wish to bring more liquidity into Energis.

Energis shares, which were floated in December 1997 at 290p, leapt from £15.22 to £16.55. National Grid shares rose 18p to 545p.

Times and markets, page 26

Mirror calls for two valuations

THE Mirror Group board has called for two independent valuations of the company to set a base line for takeover negotiations (Raymond Snoddy writes).

The valuations of the group, whose titles include The Mirror, Sunday Mirror and The People, should be available before the end of this week.

The bid approach by Regional Independent Media, publisher of the Yorkshire Post, suggests a value of about £900 million, a figure that does not include debt. Trinity, a rival regional newspaper group, withdrew from bid talks with Mirror Group earlier this month.

Brazilians lift interest to 41%

By GABRIELLA GAMINI AND ALASDAIR MURRAY

THE Brazilian Central Bank yesterday lifted interest rates as the Government vowed that it would not let Brazil's currency devaluation undermine its battle against inflation.

The rise in the bank's key lending rate, from 29 per cent to 41 per cent, dashed hopes of the bank cutting rates to kick-start the world's eighth-largest economy.

International markets responded nervously, with Wall Street falling sharply after a bright opening. The Dow Jones industrial average was down about 75 points at midday. The French and German markets ended modestly down, and the dollar came under pressure as traders switched into "safe haven" currencies, such as the Swiss franc.

Sunshine back at Club Med

By MARTIN BARROW

PHILIPPE Bourguignon, the Frenchman credited with rescuing Euro Disney, appears to have pulled another ailing leisure company back from the brink.

Club Med, the resort group, yesterday reported a return to profit after attracting thousands of tourists back to its fun-in-the-sun holiday villages.

Price cuts of up to 30 per cent, renovated resorts and some new destinations have revitalised Club Med. The group had seemed to have been struck a fatal blow by a new generation of resort companies - and the changing tastes of tourists, who were deserting beaches in search of activity holidays in exotic spots.

Maggots, food of the cods?

By SAIED SHAH

THE VAT man is having to roll up his sleeves and get to grips with maggots.

The VAT Tribunal, having determined that a Jaffa Cake was a cake and not a biscuit, must now rule whether maggots could be considered to be food. The outcome could have a significant financial bearing on the pet food and animal feed markets.

The tribunal is considering an appeal by an Essex company trading as Mag-it, a supplier of live maggots for anglers. The company, whose slogan is "Bait-it with Mag-it" had argued that maggots were food, because fish eat them and, as a result, should be zero-rated for VAT purposes in common with "most animal feeds."

FRANCE NO need to change your phone number.

8p NO monthly fee.

A MINUTE NO connection charge.

24 HOURS A DAY NO hidden costs.

Country	AXS	BT	Savings
Australia	8p	49p	84%
Canada	8p	24p	67%
France	8p	28p	71%
Germany	8p	28p	71%
Japan	14p	67p	79%
USA	8p	24p	79%

And many other destinations!

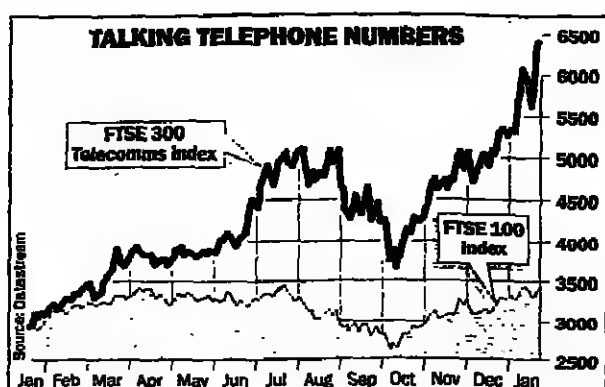
Call free to find out more on

0800 358 2223

www.axstel.com

AXS
TELECOM

Why now looks a good time to hang on to telecoms



By CHRIS AYRES

INVESTORS in telecom companies such as Vodafone, Orange, BT, Colt and Energis face a dilemma. Do they sell now in the belief that share prices cannot be sustained at current high levels or hold tight and hope that this is simply the beginning of an exciting long-term trend?

Even Sir Gerald Whent, the former chief executive of Vodafone, failed to predict the extraordinary growth of the telecom sector. Twelve months ago — long before Vodafone's £67 billion merger with AirTouch — Sir Gerald de-

clared to sell 1.2 million shares in the mobile phone company at just over £3 each. We all know now, of course, that if Sir Gerald had been just a little more patient he would now be some £12 million richer.

Before making a decision on whether to hold on to telecoms stocks, investors should consider the shockingly brief stock market history of Iridium, the Cambridge telephone company. Iridium was valued at £660 million following its much-hyped flotation during the summer of 1997, and collapsed only 15 months later. Yet few big telecoms companies suffer from the managerial and

technical problems that caused Iridium's downfall. The growth of companies such as Colt and Energis are also fuelled by markets that Iridium was never poised to take advantage of — in particular, the Internet, e-mail, corporate intranet systems, and e-commerce (transactions conducted online).

So far, this demand comes mainly from the business world, but will soon be complemented by consumer demand as more people hook-up to the Internet at home, and subscribe to interactive television services. If all this looks like a good reason to buy into the telecoms sector, it looks like an even better

reason to buy into the mobile telephone sector. All the signs so far suggest that the market penetration of mobile phone companies will double within four years to 50 per cent in most Western countries.

At the same time, new technology will allow mobile phone companies to also cash-in on the demand for data. Conducting a video conference via a mobile phone handset looks set to become a reality within a few years.

It is worth remembering, however, that companies such as Colt and Energis, whose share prices are based entirely on profits that have not yet been

made, are very different to the likes of Vodafone and BT. During a crash, shares in Colt and Energis would be highly vulnerable, as investors tend to pile into cash-generative companies such as supermarket chains and cigarette manufacturers.

However, all the evidence would suggest so far that the likes of Colt and Energis can survive stock market volatility. After all, it will take years for the demand for Internet-related services to be satisfied, and for the glamour surrounding companies in the sector to wear off.

Continued, page 25

Anger as RJB asks miners to reject EU rights

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

RJB MINING has asked all its miners to sign away employment rights under the EU's Working Time Directive. The move has provoked further anger as the company faces two union ballots for industrial action in protest over a pay plan.

The company asked its 6,800 miners to "take steps to work their normal hours". This means signing an opt-out clause from the Working Time Directive, which rules that workers should not work more than 48 hours per week. Those who stick to their rights are likely to see their pay cut.

RJB said that some miners work extra hours on a standard 7½-hour shift and undertake overtime shifts to push their working weeks regularly past 50 hours.

Nacods, the pit deputies' union, claims that its members are being pressurised by RJB and are being accused of an overtime ban when they are only exercising rights under the directive, which came into force last October.

The union said that safety could be jeopardised because pit officials were often required to work seven days a week to provide adequate cover in collieries.

Jan Parker, the president of the union's Yorkshire area, said: "This union will not sit idly by and watch its members being victimised by RJB Mining."

"If the company wishes to enter into the spirit of the Working Time Directive and negotiate on it, the union is always willing to listen, but up

to the present time, the company has only taken a one-sided view."

RJB said that it had had some positive responses to its letter, mainly from the Midlands area. A spokesman said that the company wished to continue normal hours and that Richard Budge, its chief executive, was anxious for miners to spend more time with their families.

RJB employees will vote next month in ballots that could trigger the first miners' strike for 15 years. Both the National Union of Mineworkers and the Union of Democratic Mineworkers are balloting their members on possible action.

RJB has offered a pay rise of inflation minus 1 per cent for five years. Miners have pointed to the wide gap between their offer and Mr Budge's pay in 1997 — the latest published figure for his salary. He earned £60,000 that year, including a bonus of £224,460, despite a 75 per cent slump in RJB's share price and a 9 per cent fall in profits.



Sir Peter Davis said that the figures were creditable

Pru sees 13% rise in new business

By RICHARD MILES

PRUDENTIAL yesterday reported a 13 per cent rise in UK new business to £785 million, largely reflecting the first-time inclusion of a full year from Scottish Amicable, the life insurer it acquired 16 months ago for £2.8 billion.

Scottish Amicable, which distributes its products through independent financial advisers, contributed £163.5 million in weighted premiums (regular premiums plus 10 per cent of single), a rise of 24 per cent year-on-year.

However, Prudential's traditional direct sales new business was unchanged at £306 million. Salesforce numbers have fallen to 3,200 from 4,600 from the start of the year.

The Pru also said that Egg, the innovative banking service launched last autumn, had attracted £1.3 billion in deposits. Total banking deposits at the company now amount to £22 billion, while mortgage advances have grown to £500 million.

Sir Peter Davis, group chief executive, said the figures were a "credible performance" against a background of economic uncertainty.

Tempos, page 26

Struggling Mitsui Trust to merge

TWO troubled Japanese banks are to merge as the country's financial sector edges towards further reform. Mitsui Trust and Banking is to merge with Chuo Trust and Banking to form Japan's largest trust bank with assets of about £241 billion and 170 branch offices. Mitsui Trust is by far the larger of the two banks and ranks as the third biggest of Japan's trust banks, which are in charge of managing pension funds.

Many of Japan's top banks, saddled with huge bad loans, have struggled in the past year. Already the Government has forcibly nationalised two banks after they failed to agree merger deals with rivals. Nippon Credit Bank, the last bank to be taken over by the state, had tried to merge with Chuo Trust. But Chuo pulled out, apparently scared off by Nippon's market losses and poor financial position. Under reforms passed last October, banks have been encouraged to ask for injections of taxpayers' money to help them to write off bad loans. Mitsui will ask for about £1.1 billion, while Chuo will seek £691 million.

Hanson looks to US

HANSON, the Anglo-American building materials group, could spend £200 million on acquisitions over the next year or so, focusing its growth strategy on the buoyant US market. Andrew Douglas, chief executive, yesterday said that he expected the US market to continue growing, helped by a government programme to increase spending on infrastructure projects by 40 per cent over the next six years. The group yesterday unveiled a new unified corporate structure, changing the name of each of its operating companies to Hanson.

Debenham Tewson up

DEBENHAM TEWSON & CHIMMOCKS HOLDINGS, the property consultancy, said that it is confident of continued progress in the second half of its year despite uncertainties in the UK and abroad. The company reported first-half profits of £4.68 million for the half-year to October 31, up from £3.16 million a year earlier. The interim dividend rises to 15p, from 13p. Turnover was £45.98 million (£36.73 million). Earnings per share were 5.29p (4.26p).

Victory losses deepen

VICTORY CORPORATION, the clothing, cosmetics and toiletries retailer which trades under the Virgin brand, said it was unlikely to open additional outlets this year in the light of difficult trading conditions. The company reported increased losses of £10.9 million for the half-year to September 30, compared with a £3.5 million loss previously. The company attributed 40 per cent of the deficit to a £4 million investment in the launch of its clothing business.

Eidos shares surge

SHARES in Eidos rose 65p to £1.65 yesterday after the publisher of entertainment software reported exceptionally strong demand in the three months to December 31. The company said that it had supplied in excess of six million units, well ahead of expectations. Titles released in the quarter included Michael Owen's World League Soccer, Tomb Raider 3 and Thief: The Dark Project. Eidos shares have recovered strongly since touching a 12-month low of 55p in October.

Dagenham accepts bid

DAGENHAM MOTORS, the UK's biggest dedicated Ford car dealer, has accepted a £28.3 million takeover bid by Polar Motor Group, a joint venture between Ford and Jardine Motors. The 160p-a-share cash offer represents a 35 per cent premium to Dagenham's stock market value last September when a potential offer was announced. Dagenham has 16 Ford car and van dealerships and three Iveco Ford commercial vehicle dealerships in the South East of England.

ECB remains vague on rates

By ALASDAIR MURRAY, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE European Central Bank yesterday warned that global economic problems could hit Europe harder than expected but gave few clues as to the immediate outlook for European interest rates.

In its first monthly bulletin, the ECB stuck to its favoured formula that rates would remain unchanged for the "foreseeable future", arguing the threat of higher inflation is as significant as slowing output.

The negative repercussions of recent global developments on economic growth in the euro area could turn out to be more serious than currently anticipated", the report said.

The ECB said it was clear from recent data that economic growth is slowing and said industrial confidence had declined "significantly". However,

it insisted that that loose fiscal policies and rising wages could still add to inflation.

"Wage demands in excess of labour productivity growth and a relaxation of the fiscal stance in the euro area could represent sources of inflationary risk in the future", the report said.

The ECB also cited a potential inflationary threat from buoyant consumer confidence but concluded that the overall outlook "for price developments in the euro area can be regarded as broadly balanced".

Analysts said the ECB appears intent on providing only limited guidance on interest rates but that there was nothing in the report to prevent a widely forecast cut in rates as early as next month.

US brokers and banks resilient

By RICHARD MILES

WALL STREET banks and brokers performed ahead of analysts' expectations in the fourth quarter, despite volatility in financial markets and uncertainty about the global economic outlook.

Merrill Lynch, the biggest broker in the US, reported a 23 per cent fall in fourth-quarter net earnings to \$359 million (£216 million), but the results easily beat the consensus forecast by more than 30 per cent.

However, Merrill said that private client assets, assets under management and mergers & acquisition activity all hit record levels.

Principal transactions revenues slumped 66 per cent to \$211 million. Merrill said continuing wide credit spreads and reduced liquidity contributed to losses in corporate and

high-yield bonds, as well as mortgage-backed securities.

Chase Manhattan also exceeded market expectations with a 35 per cent rise in fourth-quarter net earnings to \$1.146 billion. Net profit per share was \$1.31 compared with banking analysts' forecasts of \$1.19.

It was the same story at JP Morgan, where fourth-quarter earnings were 42 cents per share against a forecast of 35 cents, and at PaineWebber, where earnings were 63 cents per share compared with a consensus of 54 cents.

Bear Stearns reported a 15 per cent drop in second-quarter net earnings to \$135.9 million as investment banking fees collapsed, but the firm managed to beat forecasts, which had been scaled back after the summer's financial turmoil.

Unigate buys Fisher subsidiary

By ROBERT COLE CITY CORRESPONDENT

ALBERT FISHER, the troubled food producer, has sold its saucemaking business to Unigate for £43 million.

Fisher, which has issued a string of profits warnings in recent years, also told investors yesterday that its profitability is under further strain. Hugh Ashton, chairman, said: "Management figures for the first four months of the current financial

year are substantially below the like-for-like figures for the comparable period."

Proceeds of the sauces sale will be used to cut group debt, which was £147 million at the end of the last financial year, on 31 August. The sale is the first significant corporate move undertaken since Terry Robinson, formerly with Lorrain, took up the position of chief executive at Fisher.

Mr Robinson said that the sale of Fisher Quality Foods would be followed by other disposals, of the company's seafood

operation on the Continent, and of the chilled foods business. He said: "The sale is the first major step in Albert Fisher's strategic plan to reduce group debt and restore shareholder value."

FQF's purchase price includes assumption of £16 million of debt, and is equivalent to almost ten times the subsidiary's £4.4 million operating profit for 1998.

Fisher shares closed down 4p at 54p.

Tempos, page 26

The Open University
BUSINESS SCHOOL

Be a more effective manager in just 6 months

Now you can gain the management skills you need to succeed in a changing world - without taking time off work.

The Open University Business School offers six-month courses to help you plan and manage change, recruit and motivate people, resolve conflicts, make decisions, manage stress and retain customers.

As world leaders in supported distance learning, we offer everything you need to make learning effective and enjoyable.

You work in your own time, at your own pace. But your personal tutor is only a phone call away, and you can meet fellow students through study groups and residential schools.

All OUBS courses are backed by 30 years' experience in distance learning. Our methods and materials were given the highest rating of 'Excellent' by the Higher Education Funding Council for England.

For details of our courses return the coupon. Or call 08700 100311 quoting code B965H.

Send to: Course Sales and Development Centre, PO Box 625, Milton Keynes MK1 1TY.

☐ Please send me your Management Development prospectus. I have contacted the OU before. Yes/No.

Title _____ Initials _____ Surname _____ B965H

Address _____

Postcode _____

Tel _____ Date of birth _____ / ____ / 19 ____

OUBS Hotline 08700 100311
<http://subs.open.ac.uk>

The Open University opens minds, opens doors

The dilly Dallaglioing is over



Welcome back England to the Lloyds TSB Five Nations Championship.

Lloyds Bank Plc.

Lloyds TSB
Your life. Your bank.

هكذا من لايمل

Simpson's chance to build, not sell



COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

Forget plans to create a European defence giant what is needed now is a peace-keeping force. Relations between the British and German participants in the much discussed Euro-grouping have soured to the extent that Kato Adie is likely to be parachuted in to report on the hostilities at any moment.

The furious reaction of DaimlerChrysler's Jürgen Schrempp to the British Aerospace deal with Marconi indicates that his view of the balance of power in any Euro defence combine might not have occurred exactly with that of Sir Richard Evans. Sir Richard will now have to indulge in a little diplomacy if he wants to persuade the Germans and the French that the wisdom of their all joining forces remains intact. He will have to be extra tactful not to remind them that he is making the case from a much stronger position than before. Injured feelings are likely to ensure that the timetable for any formal coming together is now significantly lengthened.

But neither the Continental peevishness nor the British stock market's reaction over the £8 billion merger does anything to detract from the reputation of Lord Simpson of Dunkeld as a seller of businesses. British Aerospace might not have been in a position to do the deal if he had not, as the culmination of his time with the group, sold Rover to BMW. It took him barely any time to turn

Lucas into LucasVarity, a deal which Victor Rice seems convinced was a takeover by any other name. Now, after a couple of years at the helm of GEC, he is selling its defence business in his old firm.

The two form a logical combine but by not rushing to clinch the deal, Lord Simpson has secured a better price than he might have done. The protestations from Germany owe more than a little to the feeling that Dasa has been a useful part of his negotiating process rather than a serious contender to complete the deal.

The challenge of building a future in the highly competitive defence business now rests with Sir Richard Evans. Given that Gordon Brown is unlikely to favour throwing extra billions at the UK defence budget, that will be no easy task. Given that the biggest orders are more likely to come from far flung parts than from Europe, it could be argued that he would do as well to try and pursue links with the United States rather than Europe.

Lord Simpson will be blissfully free of the political considerations that inevitably dominate the defence business. He intends

to roam free around the world building new GEC. It will, naturally, be a telecommunications business — who would want to build anything else at the moment? And it will be the test of whether he can build businesses as well as sell them.

Lord Weinstock was absolutely determined that Simpson would be his successor. Now the chosen one has a chance to demonstrate the talent he spotted.

Just what the doctor ordered

Mobile phones may suddenly have become a subject of intense interest round at Zeneca's Stanhope Gate headquarters. Received wisdom has it that no one will seek to spoil Zeneca's £45 billion merger with Astra — partly because Sir David Barnes and Tom McKillop are so pally with their Swedish chums, but also because

of the goodwill problem that stands in the way of any hostile takeover. A bid would produce £30 billion of goodwill, creating an annual amortisation charge to profits of perhaps £1.5 billion. Even the mighty Glaxo Wellcome and Roche would think twice before taking on such a millstone.

However, the enthusiastic response that greeted Vodafone's £37.5 billion bid for AirTouch may have changed the rules of the game. Vodafone's investors seem to have completely ignored the prospect of an annual charge of £2 billion, focusing instead on the strategic benefits backed by strong and growing cashflow. If mobile phone investors are prepared to ignore the profit and loss account, perhaps Zeneca is more vulnerable than it looks.

Goldman Sachs, Zeneca's adviser, remains quietly confident its carefully prepared merger plans will not be thrown off course. For one thing, analysts and investors in the go-go tele-

coms sector are more comfortable with heavily loss-making companies than their more staid colleagues in pharmaceuticals, who still focus on traditional measures of earnings.

More compellingly, acquiring Zeneca (or Astra) may lack strategic logic for the possible bidders. Zeneca is too small to enable Glaxo Wellcome to achieve its growth goals; SmithKline Beecham is still licking its wounds while Roche appears to have ruled itself out of the bidding. And American companies such as Eli Lilly and Warner-Lambert may not be attracted by firms with patent expiry problems that are heavily dependent on the slower growing European market.

The Astra-Zeneca bond has been slowly forged and may be hard to break: the two companies' claims to a shared culture ring true. Combining their portfolios of cardiovascular and anaesthetic drugs also makes sense.

The betting remains that the deal will go through and that Dr McKillop will have his chance to run the world's third-largest drugs group. But as Zeneca prepares to issue its merger document, he could be forgiven for fumbling nervously with his Vodafone.

Brazil should say nuts to depression

Brazilians doubtless hope that devaluation will ease the pain endured in their vain attempt to maintain the value of the real and to keep foreign investors happy. They might even look to the UK experience after 1992 for reassurance.

If so, they will be disappointed. Their suffering from shrinking public services, mass firing and even freak weather, which tempted populist provincial governors to dish the austerity programme, seems destined to get worse — at least for a while.

The classic adjustment model, which worked here, suggests that Brazil should now cut interest rates but tighten its fiscal stance even further to sustain the currency and leave room for non-

inflationary recovery. But so far, short-term interest rates have jumped from 29 to 40 per cent, while those provincial governors and opposition legislators seem far from inclined to help Finance Minister Pedro Malan to balance his federal Budget. This appears to be a recipe for spiralling recession on the Asian model.

One reason the Government was so anxious to avoid the real sinking was the country's heavy foreign debt, both private and public. City economist Stephen Lewis reckons that servicing it could absorb an extra 4 per cent of national income, that could only be recouped if domestic interest rates fell. Now, unless the Budget can be righted by political consensus or a national fire sale, Brazil could stay in crisis, taking others with it.

Self-inflicted

DON'T blame potatoes. Furniture and household goods' retailers, it seems, pushed prices up before Christmas, perhaps ending autumn discounts, perhaps preparing for bigger percentage cuts in the sales. Either way, it could be costly. The price rises pushed underlying inflation above target, making it far less likely that the Bank of England will rush through another base rate cut next month. That would be bad news for household goods shops, heralding spring discounts to recoup lost sales. Serves them right.

Watchdog demands rights for savers

Consumers need "a no-quibble legal right to redress" if they buy a personal pension or savings plan that does not come up to scratch, a leading public rights group demands in a report published today.

The National Consumer Council (NCC) says that the draft Financial Services and Markets Bill, which will give statutory powers to the new unitary regulator, fails to provide adequate protection for the buying public.

David Hatch, NCC chairman, argues that the Bill should contain a set of consumer protection principles, similar to those that underpin the 1979 Sale of Goods Act. The public has more legal clout if sold a faulty kettle than if a pension or insurance policy fails to meet accepted standards.

GPE debenture
Great Portland Estates, the property group, yesterday announced the issue of £100 million first mortgage debenture stock due in 2029. It will be issued at a 1.35 per cent margin over the gross redemption yield of the 6 per cent Treasury stock 2028. Richard Peskin, chairman, said: "We have one or two interesting situations on the go. This seemed an ideal opportunity to raise £100 million for 30 years at the lowest domestic coupon for decades."

Zergo shares soar
Shares in Zergo Holdings, the company that produces software to encrypt information sent over the Internet, soared 30 per cent to 702½p after signing a licensing agreement with Intel Corporation, the US microchip group. Zergo will market Intel's Common Data Security Architecture (CDSA) technology, which allows software developers to make trading over the Internet secure. Zergo shares traded at just 165p last December.

Key Lekkerland
Goodwins, the Key Lekkerland member for the North West and West Midlands that was recently acquired by BWG, does not operate Spar or Mace retail outlets (Business News, January 9).

Somerfield to expand chain at Elf garages

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

SOMERFIELD, the supermarket group, is to double the number of its stores offering home delivery over the next six months and it is planning a big expansion of its chain of stores at petrol stations.

The company, which bought Kwik Save last March and announced better than expected interim results yesterday, said that it is to open up to 50 stores at Elf petrol stations in the next 18 months. There are currently five Elf stores and Somerfield will share in an investment of £25 million.

Somerfield's home delivery service, in which people buy their shopping in stores and have it delivered later that day, now operates in 150 stores, a rise of 90 in six months. The total will rise to 300 by the financial year's end.

Assuming that Somerfield had owned Kwik Save in the first half of last year, group interim pre-tax profits rose by more than 20 per cent to £113.8 million. Reported pre-tax profits before exceptional items rose 100 per cent, from £56.8 million.

David Simons, the chief executive, said that Somerfield is in line to produce the forecast savings from the Kwik Save merger, of £70 million a year, within three years. Within the half-year, synergy savings of £7 million had been made, the company said.

The company has now converted ten of Kwik Save's 872 stores to the Somerfield format, and will convert 53 more by Easter. It has shut 14 stores in total in the first half, and the group now trades from 1,423.

Fully diluted earnings per share fell from 17.3p to 16.8p, but the interim dividend is to rise from 3.8p to 4.5p.

Like-for-like sales in Somerfield fascia stores grew 3.4 per cent in the first half, but by just 1.7 per cent at Christmas. Mr Simons said that this dip in growth tended to occur each year because people made trips to supermarkets, such as

Tesco and Sainsbury, to stock up for Christmas, rather than relying on high street shops such as Somerfield.

Kwik Save sales fell 3.1 per cent in the first half. The group said it expects the trend to stay negative, particularly because preparing stores for conversion to the Somerfield format will disrupt trading.

□ Dawn Til Dusk Holdings, a supermarket and fresh food group, said like-for-like sales rose by 0.23 per cent at Christmas, with year-to-date sales 0.73 per cent behind last year. In the six months to October 16, pre-tax profits rose to £36,000, from £30,000, on turnover up 25 per cent to £32.6 million. Earnings per share fell to 4.4p, from 5.6p, which was attributed to effects of a rights issue. The interim dividend is 1.5p, up from 1.4p.

Temps, page 26



Cult classic Thunderbirds, part of the ITC library, which has doubled Carlton's collection

Carlton is go with £91m ITC library deal

By RAYMOND SNOODY, MEDIA EDITOR

CARLTON Communications has boosted significantly its library of television programmes and feature films with its £150 million (£91 million) purchase of the old ITC library, until recently part of PolyGram Filmed Entertainment.

The titles bought range from feature films such as *The Eagle Has Landed*, *The Big Easy*, *On Golden Pond* and *Farewell My Lovely* to television programmes such as *The Saint*, *Edward VII* and *Thunderbirds*.

The stock more than 300 films and 5,000 hours of television boosts the size of Carlton's library by more than 50 per cent, and, Carlton said, strengthened its position as "the world's largest commercial distributor of British television programmes and films".

The ITC library became available because of the purchase of PolyGram, including PolyGram Filmed Entertainment, by Seagram.

The library ended up with Universal Studios, the Seagram film-making subsidiary.

Carlton kept close to poten-

tial bidders for PolyGram Filmed Entertainment but really only wanted to buy the ITC library, which was put together by the late Lord Lew Grade.

Michael Green, the Carlton chairman, said yesterday the ITC library "fits perfectly with our growing collection of television programmes and films".

A key part of Carlton's strategy has been to accumulate programme rights and its library already includes the Rank, Romulus, Rohauer and Korda collections.

Carlton said the new library, expected to have sales of about £8 million to £10 million a year, would be at least earnings-enhancing in the current financial year.

Carlton's annual report, published yesterday, showed Mr Green's salary increased by £55,000 to £530,000 in the year to September. His total remuneration rose from £558,000 to £658,000 including a £57,000 bonus.

The next highest paid director was June de Moller, who is retiring as group managing director, with total remuneration of £351,000.

Body Shop hit by poor sales

By MATTHEW BARBOUR

BODY SHOP, the cosmetics retailer, yesterday became the latest victim of disappointing high street sales, when it gave warning that Christmas trading in the UK would put a dent in full-year profits.

The company said that like-for-like sales in the ten weeks to January 2 were down 2 per cent. There had been a 6 per cent decline in the UK and a 9 per cent decline in America.

Patrick Gournay, chief executive, also revealed that he would be announcing long-awaited plans for an overhaul of the group on Tuesday, prompting speculation of a carve-up of its US operations.

City analysts slashed their full-year profit forecasts from

£13.5 million to as low as £25 million.

Mr Gournay said the slowdown in UK sales reflected the wider slowdown in retailing over the holiday period and that sales in Europe, the Far East and Canada were improving. However, sales in Asia remained on a downward slope, though a 9 per cent drop in sales represented an improvement on recent double-digit decreases.

Worldwide, Body Shop saw sales rise by 1 per cent in the ten weeks to January 2 and by 3 per cent over the preceding 44 weeks. "The poor performance in the US will be offset by our cost-reduction scheme," promised Mr Gournay.

Still optimistic at Debenhams

By MATTHEW BARBOUR

STRONG sales of gifts and non-clothing products and a decision to delay discounts until December 27 helped Debenhams, the department store group, to withstand the worst of the high street gloom over Christmas.

The group said that in the 20 weeks to January 16 like-for-like sales, excluding sales from new store space, were down 2.5 per cent on the previous year.

However it added that the figures would have been considerably worse without a 30 per cent jump in Christmas gift sales as well as strong growth in designer lines. Total sales were ahead by 1.4 per cent.

Peter Jarvis, the chairman, said: "The retail trading environment remains challenging and it is difficult to predict how it will develop over the next few months. However, we remain confident with our well-established and proven strategy."

Debenhams was demerged from Burton Group, now Arcadia, a year ago.

Arcadia, which includes clothing chains such as Top Shop, Dorothy Perkins, Principles and Racing Green, will release its own trading statement tomorrow.

Investors reacted positively to the news and shares of Debenhams yesterday closed up 3 per cent at 350½p.

www.insnet.net
newyear@insnet.net

Avoid the rush
move faster for less

Call 0800 467 63
& save up to £200

INTERNET SERVICES

Resolving Connectivity from 640bps to 56Kbps. We make the NETWORK™

Loans subject to status, valuation and a minimum age of 18. Written questions will be available on request. YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP A MORTGAGE OR LOAN SECURED ON IT. Promise is a trading name of Winterton Direct UK Ltd, a member of the Credit Suisse Group. Registered in England and Wales under No. 3584291. Registered Office: Promiss House, Old Road, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, GL50 1BE. Telephone calls will be monitored and recorded to help improve customer service. Mortgages only available to residents of England and Wales.

Today
many homeowners would like a fairer deal on their mortgage

No fees
No branches
No salesmen
No hassle

Promise
RE-MORTGAGING MADE EASY

0800 358 80 81

Boost for Energis on the eve of promotion

THE City institutions have got themselves in a mess over Energis. Up 132p to £16.55, National Grid is selling up to 75 million shares in order to drop its stake below 50 per cent.

Brokers were testing the water ahead of the placing yesterday. Once it is complete, Energis will be cut out of the top 100 companies where it will be valued at £3.7 billion.

Unfortunately, most institutions do not have anywhere near the weighting in the shares they would require for a blue chip. The price looks set to climb higher in the short term. National Grid rose 17p to 545p.

Share prices generally went into reverse, worried by the latest rise in Brazilian interest rates and renewed by suggestions that the latest inflation numbers had undermined the prospect of another cut in domestic rates by the Bank of England.

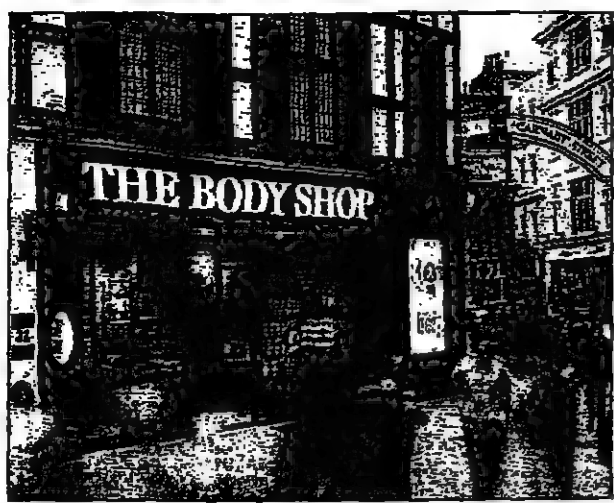
Early losses on Wall Street left prices in London deep in the red although UK shares closed above their lows. The FTSE 100 index lost an early lead but managed to stay above the 6,000 level. It closed 96.3 down at 6,027.6. Turnover again exceeded more than a billion shares with the FTSE 250 index losing 29.2 at 4,874.6.

Brokers and fund managers expressed a degree of caution over the British Aerospace acquisition of GEC's Marconi defence arm for £7.7 billion. BAE was the worst performer among the top 100 with the price losing 68p at 435p, while GEC shed 31p at 546p.

Now the speculators are tipping GEC to bid for Racal Electronics, up 18p at 386p. There has been plenty of speculation in Racal shares in recent months with followers convinced that outgoing chairman Sir Ernest Harrison is ready to go out on a high note.

This week's gloomy trading update from Nestlé could have an impact on rival Unilever, 54p easier at 648p. The Swiss group reported signs of a slowdown in its main markets during the fourth quarter.

Cautious comments by HSBC Securities, the broker, about prospects left Diageo 11p down at 670p. It has reiterated its "sell" recommendation and set a target price for the shares of 540p. There was big turnover in merger candidate Lasso with the price peaking 34p to 103p as several large lines of stock went through the



Body Shop retreated 4p to 85p as brokers cut their forecasts for the current year in the wake of a profits warning

market. They included two parcels of 7.6 million at 9.16 million at 102p. By the close of business a total of 20.6 million had been traded. Enterprise Oil, which is merging with Lasso, eased 4p to 255p.

Hopes of a bid drove House of Fraser up 15p to 88p. City speculators say the department stores group could go the same way as rival Sears, unchanged at 348p, which is facing a contested bid from a consortium headed by retailer Philip Green. Both companies have several things in common - they have Phillips & Drew as a major shareholder and have seen their share price under pressure.

Phillips & Drew is also playing a big role in the fate of Miror Group, 1/2p dearer at 206p. It has rejected a cash bid of 200p from Regional Independent Media and would prefer to back an all-share offer from Trinity International, up 1p to 434p.

Body Shop retreated 4p to 85p in the wake of its profits warning. Brokers, who had already cut their numbers after a gloomy trading update in October, had the red pencils out again. SG Securities is cutting its profits forecast for the current year from £31.5 million to £28 million. Selling pressure also left Boots 3p down at 88p as BT Alex Brown, the broker, cut its profit forecast from £593 million to £554 million blaming a sluggish Christmas.

Shares of AIM-listed On-Line soared a further 39p to a peak of 172p as the clamour for internet providers showed few signs of subsiding. The price has now risen more than tenfold in less than two weeks.

Over on AIM, the high-tech buyers were chasing Virtual Internet. It follows the reverse takeover of Charriot, which was suspended at 17p in November. The price touched a peak of 382p before closing at 311p, a rise of 19p.

The bulls are falling over themselves to pick up more shares in Zarga Holdings, 162p dearer at 102p. The information and technology specialist clinched two separate deals with PricewaterhouseCoopers, the accountant, and Intel, the microchip manufacturer.

Senior Engineering was an early casualty losing 6p at 99p as one seller unloaded a line of 1.7 million shares at 97p. GILT-EDGED: The prospect of another cut in interest rates suffered a setback after news of an unexpected rise in the underlying inflation rate. The bond market gave up an early lead with rate-sensitive, shorter-dated issues suffering heaviest losses as prices closed mixed.

In the futures pit, the March series of the long gilt fell 5p to £119.31 as a total of 31,000 contracts were completed. Among conventional issues, Treasury 8 per cent 2021 put on 32p at £151.30, while at the shorter end Treasury 7 per cent 2002 was 17p down at £107.73.

NEW YORK: Caution on Brazil and profit-taking in the banking sector forced shares lower in morning trading. Midday the Dow Jones industrial average was down 88.06 at 9,252.49.

STORM CLOUDS GATHER
FTSE 250 Insurance Index
FTSE all-share Index (rebased)
Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan

THERE was a mixed response in the insurance sector to another round of profit downgrades. CGU fell 30p to 881p as Morgan Stanley Dean Witter cut its forecast of operating profits for 1998 from £562 million to £500 million, blaming bad weather and higher claims.

Charterhouse Tilney, the broker, has also reduced its forecast by 19 per cent to £500 million. Both Charterhouse and Morgan Stanley have taken their red pencils to profit forecasts for Royal

& Sun Alliance, up 5p at 481p. They have cut from £470 million to £382 million and from £419 million to £381 million respectively. CGU and RSA both reported a profits downgrade at the nine-month stage in November, which prompted a revision of profit numbers in the sector.

Allied Zurich retreated 14p to 915p, but Guardian Royal Exchange was steady at 348p still awaiting terms, thought to be of about 390p a share, from AXA, the French insurer.

STOCK MARKET
MICHAEL CLARK

206p. It has rejected a cash bid of 200p from Regional Independent Media and would prefer to back an all-share offer from Trinity International, up 1p to 434p.

Body Shop retreated 4p to 85p in the wake of its profits warning. Brokers, who had already cut their numbers after a gloomy trading update in October, had the red pencils out again. SG Securities is cutting its profits forecast for the current year from £31.5 million to £28 million. Selling pressure also left Boots 3p down at 88p as BT Alex Brown, the broker, cut its profit forecast from £593 million to £554 million blaming a sluggish Christmas.

Shares of AIM-listed On-Line soared a further 39p to a peak of 172p as the clamour for internet providers showed few signs of subsiding. The price has now risen more than tenfold in less than two weeks.

Over on AIM, the high-tech buyers were chasing Virtual Internet. It follows the reverse takeover of Charriot, which was suspended at 17p in November. The price touched a peak of 382p before closing at 311p, a rise of 19p.

The bulls are falling over themselves to pick up more shares in Zarga Holdings, 162p dearer at 102p. The information and technology specialist clinched two separate deals with PricewaterhouseCoopers, the accountant, and Intel, the microchip manufacturer.

Senior Engineering was an early casualty losing 6p at 99p as one seller unloaded a line of 1.7 million shares at 97p. GILT-EDGED: The prospect of another cut in interest rates suffered a setback after news of an unexpected rise in the underlying inflation rate. The bond market gave up an early lead with rate-sensitive, shorter-dated issues suffering heaviest losses as prices closed mixed.

In the futures pit, the March series of the long gilt fell 5p to £119.31 as a total of 31,000 contracts were completed. Among conventional issues, Treasury 8 per cent 2021 put on 32p at £151.30, while at the shorter end Treasury 7 per cent 2002 was 17p down at £107.73.

NEW YORK: Caution on Brazil and profit-taking in the banking sector forced shares lower in morning trading. Midday the Dow Jones industrial average was down 88.06 at 9,252.49.

STORM CLOUDS GATHER
FTSE 250 Insurance Index
FTSE all-share Index (rebased)
Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan

THERE was a mixed response in the insurance sector to another round of profit downgrades. CGU fell 30p to 881p as Morgan Stanley Dean Witter cut its forecast of operating profits for 1998 from £562 million to £500 million, blaming bad weather and higher claims.

Charterhouse Tilney, the broker, has also reduced its forecast by 19 per cent to £500 million. Both Charterhouse and Morgan Stanley have taken their red pencils to profit forecasts for Royal

& Sun Alliance, up 5p at 481p. They have cut from £470 million to £382 million and from £419 million to £381 million respectively. CGU and RSA both reported a profits downgrade at the nine-month stage in November, which prompted a revision of profit numbers in the sector.

Allied Zurich retreated 14p to 915p, but Guardian Royal Exchange was steady at 348p still awaiting terms, thought to be of about 390p a share, from AXA, the French insurer.

STOCK MARKET
MICHAEL CLARK

206p. It has rejected a cash bid of 200p from Regional Independent Media and would prefer to back an all-share offer from Trinity International, up 1p to 434p.

Body Shop retreated 4p to 85p in the wake of its profits warning. Brokers, who had already cut their numbers after a gloomy trading update in October, had the red pencils out again. SG Securities is cutting its profits forecast for the current year from £31.5 million to £28 million. Selling pressure also left Boots 3p down at 88p as BT Alex Brown, the broker, cut its profit forecast from £593 million to £554 million blaming a sluggish Christmas.

Shares of AIM-listed On-Line soared a further 39p to a peak of 172p as the clamour for internet providers showed few signs of subsiding. The price has now risen more than tenfold in less than two weeks.

Over on AIM, the high-tech buyers were chasing Virtual Internet. It follows the reverse takeover of Charriot, which was suspended at 17p in November. The price touched a peak of 382p before closing at 311p, a rise of 19p.

The bulls are falling over themselves to pick up more shares in Zarga Holdings, 162p dearer at 102p. The information and technology specialist clinched two separate deals with PricewaterhouseCoopers, the accountant, and Intel, the microchip manufacturer.

Senior Engineering was an early casualty losing 6p at 99p as one seller unloaded a line of 1.7 million shares at 97p. GILT-EDGED: The prospect of another cut in interest rates suffered a setback after news of an unexpected rise in the underlying inflation rate. The bond market gave up an early lead with rate-sensitive, shorter-dated issues suffering heaviest losses as prices closed mixed.

In the futures pit, the March series of the long gilt fell 5p to £119.31 as a total of 31,000 contracts were completed. Among conventional issues, Treasury 8 per cent 2021 put on 32p at £151.30, while at the shorter end Treasury 7 per cent 2002 was 17p down at £107.73.

NEW YORK: Caution on Brazil and profit-taking in the banking sector forced shares lower in morning trading. Midday the Dow Jones industrial average was down 88.06 at 9,252.49.

Grid locked in by growth

IT IS all go for the National Grid. As the electricity delivery firm waits for the regulatory go-ahead on its planned £2.7 billion acquisition of New England - Electricity System (NEES), it reveals plans to raise more than £1 billion from selling a chunk of Energis, the telecommunications company created from nothing in 1993 to be worth about £4 billion now.

Grid has always intended to sell down its Energis interest - it currently owns 75 per cent. It said last year it would sell within three to five years but the bonanza in telecoms shares - fuelled by the favourable reception of the Vodafone/Airtouch merger - has given Grid the opportunity to move more quickly. Grid locks in some profits from Energis in selling down its stake now. But the structure of the sale means Grid will benefit if Energis shares continue their dizzy dance. The disposal

will come in two parts: one offering of ordinary shares and one of mandatorily exchangeable bonds. The bonds will deliver shares at an amount depending on the market price.

The company is keen to separate its overseas expansion plans from the Energis cash raising. Its expansion plans may not be dependent on releasing value from Energis but it still gives Grid additional strength in its campaign to build its US and Latin American portfolio of businesses. A £500 million deal could soon appear above the horizon and Grid is also committed to pumping £200 million into a consortium that is developing Brazil's telecoms network.

But Grid's US expansion has yet to be proved given the regulatory uncertainty on which the NEES purchase rests, and emerging markets bring their own problems. Only hold.

Somerfield

SOMERFIELD'S shareholders have seen rewards in the past but future prospects remain undermined by the association with budget quality. Buying Booker could have done irreparable damage to the earlier purchase of Kwik Save. Somerfield's serious market doubt, but the firm is still outside the food retailing top flight.

The shares trade on a big discount to retailing peers. They are now on about 11 times' forecast earnings, which is about half the level of the market and a 25 per cent discount to the sector.

Yesterday's interim results did not win Somerfield friends, with enough pro-forma and restated figures to keep analysts' calculators going all day. But the pre-tax profit figure was pleasing and the savings coming in

from combining Kwik Save and Somerfield's operations will bolster full-year profits this year and next. The problem is that, from that point on, it is hard to see what will drive profits.

The dip in sales growth over Christmas was explained away as a seasonal blip, with more people going to big stores such as Tesco for

their big pre-Christmas shop. This is not entirely convincing as both Sainsbury's and the Co-op said that sales went well over Christmas.

It is up to Somerfield now to come up with something more than a reiteration of the Kwik Save savings to get investors really interested. The shares seem destined to meander. Hold.

from combining Kwik Save and Somerfield's operations will bolster full-year profits this year and next. The problem is that, from that point on, it is hard to see what will drive profits.

The dip in sales growth over Christmas was explained away as a seasonal blip, with more people going to big stores such as Tesco for

their big pre-Christmas shop. This is not entirely convincing as both Sainsbury's and the Co-op said that sales went well over Christmas.

It is up to Somerfield now to come up with something more than a reiteration of the Kwik Save savings to get investors really interested. The shares seem destined to meander. Hold.

from combining Kwik Save and Somerfield's operations will bolster full-year profits this year and next. The problem is that, from that point on, it is hard to see what will drive profits.

The dip in sales growth over Christmas was explained away as a seasonal blip, with more people going to big stores such as Tesco for

their big pre-Christmas shop. This is not entirely convincing as both Sainsbury's and the Co-op said that sales went well over Christmas.

It is up to Somerfield now to come up with something more than a reiteration of the Kwik Save savings to get investors really interested. The shares seem destined to meander. Hold.

from combining Kwik Save and Somerfield's operations will bolster full-year profits this year and next. The problem is that, from that point on, it is hard to see what will drive profits.

The dip in sales growth over Christmas was explained away as a seasonal blip, with more people going to big stores such as Tesco for

their big pre-Christmas shop. This is not entirely convincing as both Sainsbury's and the Co-op said that sales went well over Christmas.

It is up to Somerfield now to come up with something more than a reiteration of the Kwik Save savings to get investors really interested. The shares seem destined to meander. Hold.

from combining Kwik Save and Somerfield's operations will bolster full-year profits this year and next. The problem is that, from that point on, it is hard to see what will drive profits.

The dip in sales growth over Christmas was explained away as a seasonal blip, with more people going to big stores such as Tesco for

their big pre-Christmas shop. This is not entirely convincing as both Sainsbury's and the Co-op said that sales went well over Christmas.

It is up to Somerfield now to come up with something more than a reiteration of the Kwik Save savings to get investors really interested. The shares seem destined to meander. Hold.

from combining Kwik Save and Somerfield's operations will bolster full-year profits this year and next. The problem is that, from that point on, it is hard to see what will drive profits.

The dip in sales growth over Christmas was explained away as a seasonal blip, with more people going to big stores such as Tesco for

their big pre-Christmas shop. This is not entirely convincing as both Sainsbury's and the Co-op said that sales went well over Christmas.

It is up to Somerfield now to come up with something more than a reiteration of the Kwik Save savings to get investors really interested. The shares seem destined to meander. Hold.

from combining Kwik Save and Somerfield's operations will bolster full-year profits this year and next. The problem is that, from that point on, it is hard to see what will drive profits.

The dip in sales growth over Christmas was explained away as a seasonal blip, with more people going to big stores such as Tesco for

their big pre-Christmas shop. This is not entirely convincing as both Sainsbury's and the Co-op said that sales went well over Christmas.

It is up to Somerfield now to come up with something more than a reiteration of the Kwik Save savings to get investors really interested. The shares seem destined to meander. Hold.

from combining Kwik Save and Somerfield's operations will bolster full-year profits this year and next. The problem is that, from that point on, it is hard to see what will drive profits.

The dip in sales growth over Christmas was explained away as a seasonal blip, with more people going to big stores such as Tesco for

their big pre-Christmas shop. This is not entirely convincing as both Sainsbury's and the Co-op said that sales went well over Christmas.

It is up to Somerfield now to come up with something more than a reiteration of the Kwik Save savings to get investors really interested. The shares seem destined to meander. Hold.

Prudential

PRUDENTIAL is not the company it once was. Yesterday's new business figures show that door-to-door sales of pensions and life assurance, the company's "Man from the Pru" traditional backbone business, were flat. This could be alarming but in fact it is encouraging. Pru's figures reveal that sales through independent financial advisers (IFAs) now account for 60 per cent of new UK business. And IFA sales tend to be of a better quality than policies sold by tied salesforces because they are better sold, and contracts stay on the books longer.

Sir Peter Davis, chief executive, has achieved this switch towards better quality business chiefly through the £2.3 billion acquisition of Scottish Equitable in October 1997. The takeover was trumpeting bids of Abbey National and AMP is paying off.

Other than shoring up the capital base Sir Peter has also had the sense to leave Scot- Am alone. IFAs are touchy about recommending products from a company with competing direct salesforces.

The IFA developments are arguably more important for the financial health of Prudential than the astonishing success of Egg, its direct banking service.

The challenge for the Pru, in common with the industry, is on profit margins. But Egg and IFA sales are welcome extra string, and, with windfalls from the £5 billion orphan estate also on the cards, there is good reason to be in Pru stock.

ALBERT FISHER is of more interest as a business school case study than as a serious investment. In examining Fisher's past, budding managers destined to work in deflationary marketplaces will certainly learn how not to do it. And if the company survives and

prosper from here, the story will be required reading in the "back from the dead" MBA module.

Fisher lived up to its reputation as the doyen of profit warners yesterday with another depressing and frank assessment of current trading. Shareholders have come to expect bad news such as this at least once a quarter.

The bitter pill was sugared by news of the £43 million disposal. The sale price is reasonable and brings welcome relief to the company's mountainous debt position.

But debt is still uncomfortably high. Moreover, it has only been reduced with the sale of one of the firm's better businesses and it will only be reduced further if buyers can be found for more of the better assets. Terry Robinson, the new chief executive, is still a long way from making history as the comeback kid. Meanwhile, avoid the shares.

ALBERT FISHER is of more interest as a business school case study than as a serious investment. In examining Fisher's past, budding managers destined to work in deflationary marketplaces will certainly learn how not to do it. And if the company survives and

prosper from here, the story will be required reading in the "back from the dead" MBA module.

Fisher lived up to its reputation as the doyen of profit warners yesterday with another depressing and frank assessment of current trading. Shareholders have come to expect bad news such as this at least once a quarter.

The bitter pill was sugared by news of the £43 million disposal. The sale price is reasonable and brings welcome relief to the company's mountainous debt position.

But debt is still uncomfortably high. Moreover, it has only been reduced with the sale of one of the firm's better businesses and it will only be reduced further if buyers can be found for more of the better assets. Terry Robinson, the new chief executive, is still a long way from making history as the comeback kid. Meanwhile, avoid the shares.

ALBERT FISHER is of more interest as a business school case study than as a serious investment. In examining Fisher's past, budding managers destined to work in deflationary marketplaces will certainly learn how not to do it. And if the company survives and

prosper from here, the story will be required reading in the "back from the dead" MBA module.

Fisher lived up to its reputation as the doyen of profit warners yesterday with another depressing and frank assessment of current trading. Shareholders have come to expect bad news such as this at least once a quarter.

The bitter pill was sugared by news of the £43 million disposal. The sale price is reasonable and brings welcome relief to the company's mountainous debt position.

But debt is still uncomfortably high. Moreover, it has only been reduced with the sale of one of the firm's better businesses and it will only be reduced further if buyers can be found for more of the better assets. Terry Robinson, the new chief executive, is still a long way from making history as the comeback kid. Meanwhile, avoid the shares.

ALBERT FISHER is of more interest as a business school case study than as a serious investment. In examining Fisher's past, budding managers destined to work in deflationary marketplaces will certainly learn how not to do it. And if the company survives and

prosper from here, the story will be required reading in the "back from the dead" MBA module.

Fisher lived up to its reputation as the doyen of profit warners yesterday with another depressing and frank assessment of current trading. Shareholders have come to expect bad news such as this at least once a quarter.

The bitter pill was sugared by news of the £43 million disposal. The sale price is reasonable and brings welcome relief to the company's mountainous debt position.

But debt is still uncomfortably high. Moreover, it has only been reduced with the sale of one of the firm's better businesses and it will only be reduced further if buyers can be found for more of the better assets. Terry Robinson, the new chief executive, is still a long way from making history as the comeback kid. Meanwhile, avoid the shares.

ALBERT FISHER is of more interest as a business school case study than as a serious investment. In examining Fisher's past, budding managers destined to work in deflationary marketplaces will certainly learn how not to do it. And if the company survives and

prosper from here, the story will be required reading in the "back from the dead" MBA module.

Fisher lived up to its reputation as the doyen of profit warners yesterday with another depressing and frank assessment of current trading. Shareholders have come to expect bad news such as this at least once a quarter.

The bitter pill was sugared by news of the £43 million disposal. The sale price is reasonable and brings welcome relief to the company's mountainous debt position.

But debt is still uncomfortably high. Moreover, it has only been reduced with the sale of one of the firm's better businesses and it will only be reduced further if buyers can be found for more of the better assets. Terry Robinson, the new chief executive, is still a long way from making history as the comeback kid. Meanwhile, avoid the shares.

ALBERT FISHER is of more interest as a business school case study than as a serious investment. In examining Fisher's past, budding managers destined to work in deflationary marketplaces will certainly learn how not to do it. And if the company survives and

COMMODITIES

LIFFE
COFFEE
May 99 901-903
Jul 99 901-903
Sep 99 901-903
Nov 99 901-903
Dec 99 901-903
Jan 00 901-903
Feb 00 901-903
Mar 00 901-903
Apr 00 901-903
May 00 901-903
Jun 00 901-903
Jul 00 901-903
Aug 00 901-903
Sep 00 901-903
Oct 00 901-903
Nov 00 901-903
Dec 00 901-903
Jan 01 901-903
Feb 01 901-903
Mar 01 901-903
Apr 01 901-903
May 01 901-903
Jun 01 901-903
Jul 01 901-903
Aug 01 901-903
Sep 01 901-903
Oct 01 901-903
Nov 01 901-903
Dec 01 901-903
Jan 02 901-903
Feb 02 901-903
Mar 02 901-903
Apr 02 901-903
May 02 901-903
Jun 02 901-903
Jul 02 901-903
Aug 02 901-903
Sep 02 901-903
Oct 02 901-903
Nov 02 901-903
Dec 02 901-903
Jan 03 901-903
Feb 03 901-903
Mar 03 901-903
Apr 03 901-903
May 03 901-903
Jun 03 901-903
Jul 03 901-903
Aug 03 901-903
Sep 03 901-903
Oct 03 901-903
Nov 03 901-903
Dec 03 901-903
Jan 04 901-903
Feb 04 901-903
Mar 04 901-903
Apr 04 901-903
May 04 901-903
Jun 04 901-903
Jul 04 901-903
Aug 04 901-903
Sep 04 901-903
Oct 04 901-903
Nov 04 901-903
Dec 04 901-903
Jan 05 901-903
Feb 05 901-903
Mar 05 901-903
Apr 05 901-903
May 05 901-903
Jun 05 901-903
Jul 05 901-903
Aug 05 901-903
Sep 05 901-903
Oct 05 901-903
Nov 05 901-903
Dec 05 901-903
Jan 06 901-903
Feb 06 901-903
Mar 06 901-903
Apr 06 901-903
May 06 901-903
Jun 06 901-903
Jul 06 901-903
Aug 06 901-903
Sep 06 901-903
Oct 06 901-903
Nov 06 901-903
Dec 06 901-903
Jan 07 901-903
Feb 07 901-903
Mar 07 901-903
Apr 07 901-903
May 07 901-903
Jun 07 901-903
Jul 07 901-903
Aug 07 901-903
Sep 07 901-903
Oct 07 901-903
Nov 07 901-903
Dec 07 901-903
Jan 08 901-903
Feb 08 901-903
Mar 08 901-903
Apr 08 901-903
May 08 901-903
Jun 08 901-903
Jul 08 901-903
Aug 08 901-903
Sep 08 901-903
Oct 08 901-903
Nov 08 901-903
Dec 08 901-903
Jan 09 901-903
Feb 09 901-903
Mar 09 901-903

Little time left for a recession

Those of us old enough to remember the last two British recessions with acute discomfort are unfazed about the current economic slowdown. For this columnist, the early 1980s recession coincided with my departure from university and entering the jobs market for the first time. I remember deciding not to read newspapers for the last six months of my university life because headlines about mass unemployment were worrying enough to put me off all thoughts of Shelley, Blake and Virgil. The next recession will forever stick in the mind because of the catastrophic rises in interest rates that were needed to stop the preceding boom at a time when many people of my age were borrowed up to the hilt in our desire to become part of Margaret Thatcher's home-owning democracy. Between the day, in the late 1980s when I signed my mortgage contract and the first monthly payment, interest rates had risen alarmingly by 2 per cent. It is hard to be scared this time around. For all the doom-laden

talk of recession and high-profile job losses, employment is at a record, vacancies are only just below their recent historic highs and unemployment has only recently begun to edge higher. Interest rate movements have been decidedly modest in recent times, ensuring that consumers were last time round. In this cycle, rates moved from a trough of 5.25 per cent in February 1994 to a peak last June of 7.50 per cent, a range of only 2.25 per cent if rates fall no further. This compares with the previous cycle in which rates bottomed out at 7.50 per cent (the peak this time) in May 1988 and doubled to 15 per cent in October 1989, a range of 7.50 per cent. Newspaper headlines, industrial confidence surveys, retailers' releases may all be as dramatically woeful as they have been

on the brink of past recessions but all the germane economic indicators tell a story of much greater stability, far less economic imbalance, a much shallower cycle and a relative lack of macroeconomic policy mistakes or misjudgments by consumers and businesses. Take all this evidence together and it is difficult to mount a convincing argument that Britain is in for a recession severe enough to be given the name. Indeed, unless events turn very nasty overseas and remain nasty, a case can be made for a shallow, short-lived downturn or, as the Treasury and the Bank are guessing, none at all. One of the biggest changes from past cycles is the behaviour of inflation. Despite yesterday's news of a dip in underlying inflation — due partly to bad weather boosting food prices and partly because of furniture retailers raising prices

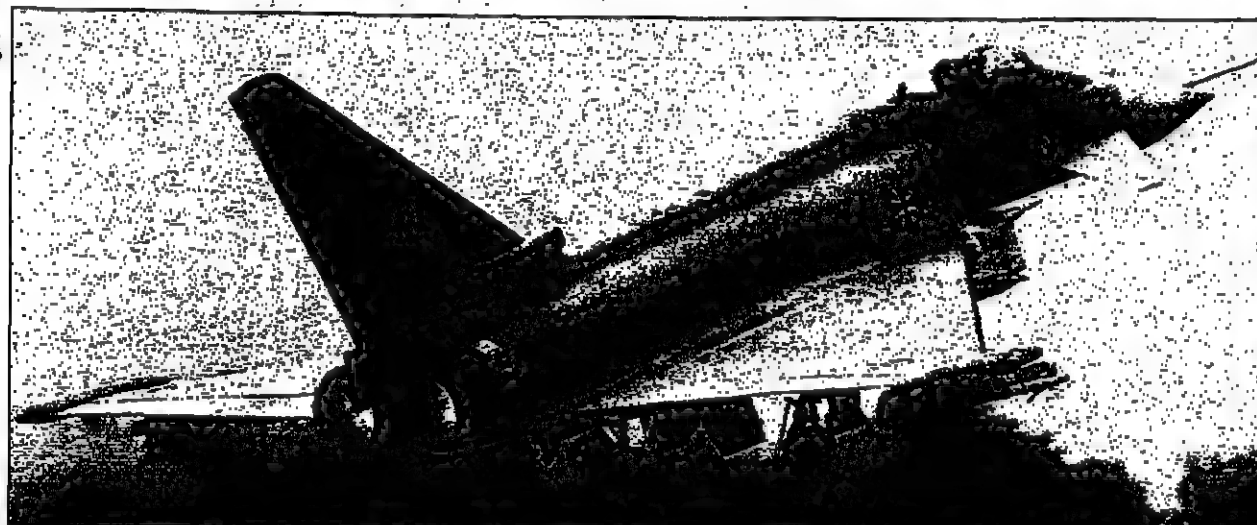
(and losing sales as a result) — inflation is extremely tame compared with previous cycles. In the late 1980s, inflation reached 10 per cent. During this cycle, inflation has hovered between 3 and 4 per cent. Much has been made of the "consumer boom" in 1997 on the back of demutualisation windfall gains. But consumer spending has been positively anaemic despite the windfall billions. Consumer spending has grown by an average of 2.8

per cent a year since the trough of the recession in the second quarter of 1992. This compares with a growth rate of 8.1 per cent in the first quarter of 1988. Let us briefly look at the housing market, so crucial to the 1980s boom and bust. According to the Halifax, house price inflation peaked in 1997 at 7 per cent. The Nationwide put the peak at 13 per cent. Neither of these figures compares with the 35 per cent increase in house prices recorded in the year to October 1988. Another measure of the relative health of the economy is the financial position of households and of companies. Both are far less indebted than they have been at the onset of previous recessions. In the late 1980s, the personal sector racked up debts worth 3 per cent of gross domestic product. By the third quarter of last year, the per-

sonal sector was still running a surplus, albeit a relatively small one of 1.1 per cent of GDP. Non-financial corporations were carrying a financial deficit of 2 per cent of GDP in the year ending in the third quarter of 1998. This compares with a deficit of some 5 per cent of GDP at the start of 1990. It is not just people and companies who have behaved far less profligately in the current cycle than in the previous one — scared no doubt by the mess they found themselves in when interest rates doubled. Since 1992, successive Chancellors have proved to be careful stewards of the public finances. The culmination of years of Conservative tax increases, tough control on public spending by Gordon Brown (and, of course, growth after sterling was allowed to float) has been that the budget deficit has been cut from some £50 billion

at the peak to a likely surplus this year and balance in 1999-2000. So here are some reasons to be cheerful about the year ahead. Without a boom (in growth or credit), there need not be a bust. With the public finances headed for balance, with inflation low and with sterling floating freely, rates can be cut by as much as is needed. Consumer spending, which is so important a component of British GDP, would have to implode to cause a recession and that is not happening. As Tim Congdon of Lombard Street Research put it recently: "The jeremiahs need to remember that sales of mobile phones and foreign holidays are booming and that sales data from Marks & Spencer and John Lewis are not the whole story." On Friday we will see the first snapshot of fourth-quarter GDP with the City forecasting growth of 0.1 per cent. Given small signs of a recovery in business and consumer confidence, there may be no time to squeeze in even a technical recession before the rebound everyone expects in the second half.

Europe cries foul as New BAe emerges



The Eurofighter 2000, produced jointly by BAe and Dasa of Germany, Casa of Spain and Italy's Finmeccanica and the Airbus A330, which BAe developed with Aérospatiale of France, Dasa and Casa, are examples of how European co-operation can work

It is easy to feel sorry for France. Badgered by Britain and Germany, the French Government has swallowed its pride and started the long process of privatising Aérospatiale, the aircraft company that dreamt up Concorde, to make the business a more acceptable partner in pan-European mergers. Fully aware of the strikes that can follow attempts to overhaul state industries in France, it also privately signalled that it would cut its stake in Thomson-CSF, the defence electronics group, to as little as 5 per cent. And then what happens? For all their rhetoric about cross-border deals, the two big UK defence companies, British Aerospace and GEC's Marconi Electronic Systems, produce an "Anglo-British" solution: an £8 billion merger that would have been condemned as a backward step had it happened in France. The French are not alone in being concerned about the perceived insularity of the deal. When Lord Simpson of Dunkeld, the chief executive of GEC, and Sir Richard Evans, the chairman of British Aerospace, saw Tony Blair on Monday, the Prime Minister is understood to have reiterated the Government's desire for a link with continental Europe. Then there are the Germans. The most logical continental partner for British Aerospace has always been Dasa, the aerospace arm of DaimlerChrysler. Talks have been stopping and starting since 1995 and the two sides came close to an agreement before Christmas. Yesterday, GEC was at pains to say that it did not gate-crash these talks. Indeed, GEC, BAe and Dasa sat round

Adam Jones reports on the reaction to the 'Anglo-British' deal

the negotiating table on at least one occasion and examined the case for a three-way merger. BAe had trouble overcoming the German fear of Dasa being swamped by a much larger British company. New British Aerospace — the expanded company that will be

formed if the Marconi merger goes through — still wants to link with Dasa, even though the size mismatch will be much worse after the merger. Yesterday, an angry Dasa gave warning that the BAe-Marconi deal "will make balanced European horizontal

mergers such as Dasa-BAe impossible and create an obstacle to European integration". Sir Richard Evans, who will continue to head New BAe, realises that he will have to smooth many ruffled feathers. He admits that the merger will make BAe seem even

more threatening to Dasa: "Our job is to overcome these obstacles." Dasa may get the hump and look to merge with Thomson-CSF, which has emerged from the Marconi bid talks looking rather bruised. GEC used Thomson to ex-

tract a full price from BAe. It worked. BAe will have to face accusations that it overpaid for Marconi. Thomson negotiators fought until the last minute, coming back to London and raising their offer for the GEC arm on Monday, but Lord Simpson batted this away before heading to the City offices of Warburg Dillon Read to close the deal with BAe.

As long as the French State keeps a stake in Thomson, it will find mergers difficult. Will the state let factories close in the South of France to realise cost savings? DaimlerChrysler may prefer to merge Dasa with another rather than test the French resolve. It could draw on Chrysler's American contacts to smooth a path towards a US link.

It may be the case that New BAe will strike smaller deals, similar to its tie-up with Saab of Sweden, while the French and Germans lick their wounds. It is in talks with both Casa

On-off relationship ends in marriage of convenience

Politics and personalities stopped Britain from creating a world-scale defence and aerospace combine more than 20 years, enabling France and Germany to catch up. In the 1970s, Arnold Weinstock's GEC owned half of the British Aircraft Corporation as well as Marconi, the nucleus of the new group. But Tony Benn nationalised BAC to form part of British Aerospace in 1976, the last big state takeover in Britain. For the next two decades, Lord Weinstock manoeuvred to regain what he regarded as his property, even though he never liked the civil aircraft side. Having seen BAC sequestered for far less than market value, however, he was fatally reluctant to pay much to get it back. A chance came to buy the whole of British Aerospace in 1984, when it was semi-privatised. Sir Peter Lister, leading rival Thorn-EMI into a risky buying spree, opened bid talks with BAe, then headed by the mild-mannered but worldly Sir Austin Pearce. GEC had rival talks but neither made a bid. Lord Weinstock was on poor terms with the Thatcher Government, including Norman Tebbit, Trade Secretary, who saw him as the epitome of whingeing corporatism. GEC thought it would not be allowed



Weinstock: missed opportunity

to become so powerful a supplier to the Ministry of Defence. Relations between the companies grew worse under the next BAe regime, which teamed Sir Roland Smith, the chief marketing expert, with Admiral Sir Raymond Lygo, the chief executive. Sir Roland had little respect for the management style of the ageing Weinstock. Egos collided. GEC was seen as an aggressive predator. Sir Roland set about turning BAe into a giant in its own right, buying Rover among much else to con-

struct a British equivalent of Daimler-Benz or Fiat. But lack of long-term finance led to a cash crisis when the slump of 1991-92 brought big losses on civil aircraft. Again, GEC had a chance to pounce. In September 1992, a rights issue was floundering. Sir Roland Smith had gone, BAe's board was in disarray and its market had shrunk to £440 million. But Weinstock lost his prize by refusing to risk GEC's funds on such an ailing outfit. New men at BAe were not inclined to sell it for a pittance. The moment was soon gone, one of the great lost opportunities of corporate history. Sir Dick Evans, who did so much to transform BAe into a £9.5 billion company in six years, got on better with GEC but understandably did not want to be junior partner. Issues of executive pecking order are thought to have dogged on-off talks over a defence merger since 1995. It was not made easier when GEC came under the leadership of Lord Simpson of Dunkeld, who had run Rover for BAe when Sir Dick was chief executive but left to be top dog at Lucas. Only a government volte face under Tony Blair and the threat of being picked off separately seem finally to have brought them together.

GRAHAM SEARJEANT

No Mayo

ONE man not asked his opinion of the GEC decision to merge its Marconi business with British Aerospace was Lord Weinstock, still in occupancy at GEC's shrunken headquarters and chairman emeritus. Lord Simpson of Dunkeld, his replacement as chief executive, said Weinstock's post these days was not a hands-on one and the man who largely created GEC was not party to the discussions. "I'm sure he

may be trying to contact me as we speak," said Simpson cheekily. My man at yesterday's briefing was startled to see that Weinstock's notoriously parsimonious streak lingers on, though. John Mayo, the sometimes combative finance director of GEC, was spotted carefully inspecting the complimentary pastries beforehand. Then the easy lookalike is in charge of the catering at Warburg Dillon Read.



"I'm collecting money to support The Body Shop"

A MEDIA-WATCHER was asked, in the light of the rash of reports predicting his downfall, to give a rating to David Montgomery, Mirror Group's chief executive. "About 60 per cent," came the reply. "He's very good at cost-cutting." And what about future strategy? "That's the 40 per cent."

Light sleep
MICHAEL FOOT, head of banking supervision at the Financial Services Authority, was telling of how he was



forced to sleep at work over the new year because of the euro. One problem: the FSA, like many modern offices, has one of those automatic lighting systems that work in the presence of a warm body. Asleep or not, so he had to kip down in the boardroom, the only place you can switch the light off. He will be there next New Year's Eve, too, he expects. The only advantage this time is the magnificent view of the Canary Wharf offices have of the Millennium Dome.

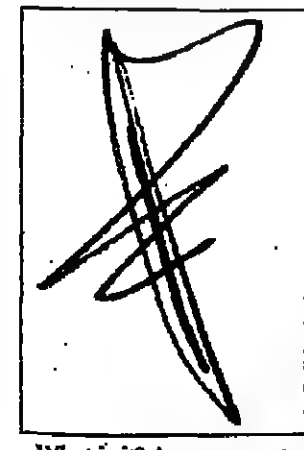
colleague for a ride around London in a stretch limo drinking champagne while testing "the world's first ever remote access business electronic banking product which can be accessed from a fully-mobile sub-notebook computer" (read: direct banking from a laptop). Alas, it became apparent, as the limo moved off, that the device didn't work. Barclays suggested they parked and tried; my colleague said no, it was supposed to be mobile. They drove on. At last the device cracked into life, only to cut out again a few yards later. And so it went on. Still, the champagne was OK.

GLANBIA sounds like somewhere you go for a cheap holiday, but it is the latest daft corporate name dreamt up by the image consultants. It replaces the perfectly respectable Avonmore Waterford Group and joins a hall of infamy that includes Diageo, Hyder, the old Welsh Water, and Chorion. It comes from two Gaelic words, one meaning pure — oh, look, you don't really want to know all this. But out of sheer childishness I ring Avonmore's London man and manage to persuade him it also means "pig manure" in Finnish. (It doesn't).

Sign off

LOOK at the picture below. Is it: a) Glanbia's new corporate logo; b) the amoeba that causes glanbia, a West African fever; or: c) your doctor's signature on a prescription to treat it? It is the signature of David Abdo, company secretary of Carlton, in the latest accounts. Chairman Michael Green's is little better. The only one to master joined-up writing is June de Moller, managing director. And she's retiring.

MARTIN WALLER
city diary@the-times.co.uk



What is it? Answers on a postcard to Carlton

THE SUNDAY TIMES
PRESENTS
Valentine's Day

IN ASSOCIATION WITH

The Sunday Times offers you the opportunity to place a Valentine's message in the paper on Sunday February 14th 1999. In addition we will send a 50ml bottle of tommygirl (RRP £25) or tommy (RRP £22) together with a note which reads "Look for your message in the Sunday Times on Valentine's Day". The cost is from £35 for a minimum 3 line message and a 50ml fragrance. Please indicate whether the male or female fragrance is required by ticking the relevant box below.

The most romantic message published will win a romantic holiday for two...

WRITE YOUR MESSAGE BELOW - ONE WORD PER BOX		No LINES	PRICE*
		1	£35
		2	£35
		3	£35
		4	£42
		5	£48
		6	£54

EACH SUBSEQUENT LINE WILL BE CHARGED AT £5.00 *INCLUDES VAT

YOUR DETAILS

Name _____
Address _____
Postcode _____
Telephone _____

YOUR VALENTINE'S DETAILS

Name _____
Address _____
Postcode _____
Male ☐ Female ☐

I enclose a cheque/PO for £.....made payable to Times Newspapers Limited
Or debit my credit card by £..... Card expiry date .../.../...
Card No.

Please send this coupon with remittance to:
Valentine's Messages, The Sunday Times,
PO Box 484, Virginie Street,
London E16 2EL.
Fax 0171 782 7799
E-mail: valentines@times.co.uk

CREDIT CARD BOOKINGS 0171 481 4000

Coupons must be received no later than Sunday February 14th 1999. We reserve the right to omit an advertisement. Standard terms and conditions apply.

هَذَا مِنْ الْأَمَلِ

Late sell-off for equities

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1998				1997				1996				1995				1994				1993				1992				1991				1990				1989				1988				1987				1986				1985				1984				1983				1982				1981				1980				1979				1978				1977				1976				1975				1974				1973				1972				1971				1970				1969				1968				1967				1966				1965				1964				1963				1962				1961				1960				1959				1958				1957				1956				1955				1954				1953				1952				1951				1950				1949				1948				1947				1946				1945				1944				1943				1942				1941				1940				1939				1938				1937				1936				1935				1934				1933				1932				1931				1930				1929				1928				1927				1926				1925				1924				1923				1922				1921				1920				1919				1918				1917				1916				1915				1914				1913				1912				1911				1910				1909				1908				1907				1906				1905				1904				1903				1902				1901				1900				1899				1898				1897				1896				1895				1894				1893				1892				1891				1890				1889				1888				1887				1886				1885				1884				1883				1882				1881				1880				1879				1878				1877				1876				1875				1874				1873				1872				1871				1870				1869				1868				1867				1866				1865				1864				1863				1862				1861				1860				1859				1858				1857				1856				1855				1854				1853				1852				1851				1850				1849				1848				1847				1846				1845				1844				1843				1842				1841				1840				1839				1838				1837				1836				1835				1834				1833				1832				1831				1830				1829				1828				1827				1826				1825				1824				1823				1822				1821				1820				1819				1818				1817				1816				1815				1814				1813				1812				1811				1810				1809				1808				1807				1806				1805				1804				1803				1802				1801				1800				1799				1798				1797				1796				1795				1794				1793				1792				1791				1790				1789				1788				1787				1786				1785				1784				1783				1782				1781				1780				1779				1778				1777				1776				1775				1774				1773				1772				1771				1770				1769				1768				1767				1766				1765				1764				1763				1762				1761				1760				1759				1758				1757				1756				1755				1754				1753				1752				1751				1750				1749				1748				1747				1746				1745				1744				1743				1742				1741				1740				1739				1738				1737				1736				1735				1734				1733				1732				1731				1730				1729				1728				1727				1726				1725				1724				1723				1722				1721				1720				1719				1718				1717				1716				1715				1714				1713				1712				1711				1710				1709				1708				1707				1706				1705				1704				1703				1702				1701				1700				1699				1698				1697				1696				1695				1694				1693				1692				1691				1690				1689				1688				1687				1686				1685				1684				1683				1682				1681				1680				1679				1678				1677				1676				1675				1674				1673				1672				1671				1670				1669				1668				1667				1666				1665				1664				1663				1662				1661				1660				1659				1658				1657				1656				1655				1654				1653				1652				1651				1650				1649				1648				1647				1646				1645				1644				1643				1642				1641				1640				1639				1638				1637				1636				1635				1634				1633				1632				1631				1630				1629				1628				1627				1626				1625				1624				1623				1622				1621				1620				1619				1618				1617				1616				1615				1614				1613				1612				1611				1610				1609				1608				1607				1606				1605				1604				1603				1602				1601				1600				1599				1598				1597				1596				1595				1594				1593				1592				1591				1590				1589				1588				1587				1586				1585				1584				1583				1582				1581				1580				1579				1578				1577				1576				1575				1574				1573				1572				1571				1570				1569				1568				1567				1566				1565				1564				1563				1562				1561				1560				1559				1558				1557				1556				1555				1554				1553				1552				1551				1550				1549				1548				1547				1546				1545				1544				1543				1542				1541				1540				1539				1538				1537				1536				1535				1534				1533				1532				1531				1530				1529				1528				1527				1526				1525				1524				1523				1522				1521				1520				1519				1518				1517				1516				1515				1514				1513				1512				1511				1510				1509				1508				1507				1506				1505				1504				1503				1502				1501				1500				1499				1498				1497				1496				1495				1494				1493				1492				1491				1490				1489				1488				1487				1486				1485				1484				1483				1482				1481				1480				1479				1478				1477				1476				1475				1474				1473				1472				1471				1470				1469				1468				1467				1466				1465				1464				1463				1462				1461				1460				1459				1458				1457				1456				1455				1454				1453				1452				1451				1450				1449				1448				1447				1446				1445				1444				1443				1442				1441				1440				1439				1438				1437				1436				1435				1434				1433				1432				1431				1430				1429				1428				1427				1426				1425				1424				1423				1422				1421				1420				1419				1418				1417				1416				1415				1414				1413				1412				1411				1410				1409				1408				1407				1406				1405				1404				1403				1402				1401				1400				1399				1398				1397				1396				1395				1394				1393				1392				1391				1390				1389				1388				1387				1386				1385				1384				1383				1382				1381				1380				1379				1378				1377				1376				1375				1374				1373				1372				1371				1370				1369				1368				1367				1366				1365				1364				1363				1362				1361				1360				1359				1358				1357				1356				1355				1354				1353				1352				1351				1350				1349				1348				1347				1346				1345				1344				1343				1342				1341				1340				1339				1338				1337				1336				1335				1334				1333				1332				1331				1330				1329				1328				1327				1326				1325				1324				1323				1322				1321				1320				1319				1318				1317				1316				1315				1314				1313				1312				1311				1310				1309				1308				1307				1306				1305				1304				1303				1302				1301				1300				1299				1298				1297				1296				1295				1294				1293				1292				1291				1290				1289				1288				1287				1286				1285				1284				1283				1282				1281				1280				1279				1278				1277				1276				1275				1274				1273				1272				1271				1270				1269				1268				1267				1266				1265				1264				1263				1262				1261				1260				1259				1258				1257				1256				1255				1254				1253				1252				1251				1250				1249				1248				1247				1246				1245				1244				1243				1242				1241				1240				1239				1238				1237				1236				1235				1234				1233				1232				1231				1230				1229				1228				1227				1226				1225				1224				1223				1222				1221				1220				1219				1218				1217				1216				1215				1214				1213				1212				1211				1210				1209				1208				1207				1206				1205				1204				1203				1202				1201				1200				1199				1198				1197				1196				1195				1194				1193				1192				1191				1190				1189				1188				1187				1186				1185				1184				1183				1182				1181				1180				1179				1178				1177				1176				1175				1174				1173				1172				1171				1170				1169				1168				1167				1166				1165				1164				1163				1162				1161				1160				1159				1158				1157				1156				1155				1154				1153				1152				1151				1150				1149				1148				1147				1146				1145				1144				1143				1142				1141				1140				1139				1138				1137				1136				1135				1134				1133				1132				1131				1130				1129				1128				1127				1126				1125				1124				1123				1122				1121				1120				1119				1118				1117				1116				1115				1114				1113				1112				1111				1110				1109				1108				1107				1106				1105				1104				1103				1102				1101				1100				1099				1098				1097				1096				1095				1094				1093				1092				1091				1090				1089				1088				1087				1086				1085				1084				1083				1082				1081				1080				1079				1078				1077				1076				1075				1074				1073				1072				1071				1070				1069				1068				1067				1066				1065				1064				1063				1062				1061				1060				1059				1058				1057				1056				1055				1054				1			
------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	------	--	--	--	---	--	--	--

Edward Fennell presents a two-page special report on the Government's annual celebration of the best training in industry

Winners reap the reward of a top workforce

A recent victim of a botched programme complained earlier this month: "Training means spending three hours in a training room, falling asleep while being lectured at by someone about computers. Frankly, I'm very sceptical about the value of that."

And quite right, too. Training without targets or benefits is useless. The Government's annual National Training Awards, launched this week, aims to be an antidote to this kind of wasteful training.

With the backing of key organisations such as the CBI, the TUC and the Institute of Personnel and Development—all of whom are represented on the judging panel—National Training Awards give formal recognition each autumn to a hundred or so organisations and a score of individuals who have engaged in "exceptionally effective training".

The award winners provide models of good practice of what can be achieved when training is well managed as a business development. This can often lead to less money being spent on training—but being spent more thoughtfully and effectively.

Training is no longer the Cinderella it once was. The massive increase in the use of information technology and the current culture of customer service and quality systems has compelled employers to invest in the skills of their workforce. It was noticeable that during the last recession (for the first time) training was not slashed by the accountants as an unnecessary item in the balance sheet.

Even so, there are strong signs that while the spirit is willing, the delivery is often weak. Employers recognise the importance of training to their organisations but are

still prone to lazy planning and poor preparation. Facile short cuts—notably the off-the-shelf, generic course—still provide many employers with the bulk of their training diet. The result is bland or irrelevant courses, inadequate monitoring of achievement and little, if any, follow-up. Sure, the staff have undergone training. But what have they learnt? Has their performance materially improved? All too often nobody knows, or cares.

So, despite being in their second decade, National Training Awards still have an important mission to accomplish. In their early years the awards helped to put training on the business agenda and many of Britain's best-known companies such as Rolls-Royce, British Steel and Lucas Industries have regularly appeared among the ranks of the winners. Now more than ever, their message is that training must be delivered in a planned and professional way to realise specific benefits, whether for organisations or for individuals.

One of the main ways of communicating this message is through the nationwide series of workshops and presentations organised by training and enterprise councils (Tecs) and local enterprise councils in Scotland. These workshops have become useful training exercises in their own right as they convey the underlying principles of effective training.

Cliff Ellison, the chief executive of Rochdale Tec, is a great fan of the awards. He chairs a panel that brings together 14 organisations in the North West to promote the National Training Awards and to groom entrants for success.

"Many companies are interested in the awards, attend one of our workshops and then recognise that their own

training strategies won't make the grade," he says. "This gives us an opportunity to work with these organisations, to improve their training management and then, in due course, perhaps apply for an award."

Judges not only evaluate the training but also scrutinise the results in terms of business and individual performance. This may mean that it takes a year or two before concrete results come through.

Individuals are not left out of the Training Awards agenda. With a focus on those who have used training to restart their careers or overcome disabilities, the winners' stories send out the message that responsibility for training and personal development lies with individuals just as much as with their employers.

In a world of uncertain futures where nobody is owed a job for life, individual workers must be more proactive in increasing their skills and knowledge. Individual National Training Award winners tend to be exemplars of those who have "pulled themselves up by their own bootstraps" but the general message applies to us all. But beware of the quagmire of pointless, useless training. National Training Award Winners provide a beacon of how it should be done.

● National Training Award Workshops are being held across the North West from January through to March. For more information contact the NTA North West hotline on 01606 734355. For more information about the Awards generally contact the National Training Awards Office on 01442 593419. Entries for the 1999 awards should be received by May 14.



Rolls-Royce is among many of Britain's better known companies to appear regularly among the ranks of winners

Slump spurred lawyer to act

NINE years ago, Brian Marson's law firm was facing ruin. He had set up Marsons in Kent in 1986 and had quickly become dependent on conveyancing—but when recession destroyed the property market, Mr Marson was deeply in debt.

"Standing still was not an option," he says. "We either went up or we went out of business. I was determined to survive."

That kind of desperation drove him to invest in training. "Though I was an experienced solicitor, I knew nothing about management," he recalls. "A one-week course taught me how to write a business plan. Since then, it has been a story of continuous progress."

Now Marsons is thriving. Over the past three years, financial turnover has increased sixfold and staff by four times. Mr Marson attributes his success equally to his investment in training and information technology.

Along the way, Brian Marson has sought external recognition of the firm's achievements. First, he achieved the quality standard ISO9000. Next, he became an Investor in People, and in 1996 he won a National Training Award.

He says: "Every time we go for an award, we learn something about ourselves. And we use the information to improve the firm."

This year Marsons will be entering again for an award. Mr Marson believes that the contribution made by training to the progress of the business warrants it. The link between IT and training is now particularly important.

With the right technology and skilled people, Marsons has automated many legal processes and the firm has now picked up slices of work from banks and housing associations of a magnitude that would have been beyond him in the early 1990s.

He adds: "There are some high-street firms that are trying to continue using typewriters—I don't see how they can survive. To succeed today, you have got to be prepared to make the investment in your staff and in technology."



High performance business and management training has helped Scania to realise its ambitions

Pole position in the trucks race

Graham Cramp of Scania (Great Britain) is not much given to sentiment or tripe. He has looked at a number of external awards and badges and dismissed them as irrelevant.

But he is a great fan of National Training Awards. As Scania's franchise and staff development manager, he must persuade franchisees to attend courses that help to build their business.

These franchisees are a sceptical lot—but they do respond to genuine quality.

That's why Mr Cramp was keen to gain a National Training Award as an endorsement of what he is providing.

"Our franchisees must pay to attend our courses so they need to be confident that they will get value for money. Having a National Training Award helps to demonstrate that," he says.

Scania has won National Training Awards twice in the past four years and its approach is firmly grounded in the business needs of the organisation. "Some years ago we were given the task of increas-

Scania tailored its staff development scheme to win a second award

ing our penetration of the trucks market from 9 per cent to 20 per cent," Mr Cramp says.

"To do that we had to increase the number of our workshops and provide excellent aftercare service. That meant training a lot of people in technical skills. But we also decided, for the first time, to offer training in business and management skills."

It is the business and management training that has helped Scania to realise its ambitions in Britain, and Mr Cramp was delighted when the programme received the ultimate stamp of approval from the National Training Awards judges.

"It was good for me and my staff. It was also good for the people coming on the course—

it gave them confidence in what they would experience. And, finally, it was good for our customers because they could feel reassured about the quality of service they would receive."

Like many National Training Award winners Mr Cramp is critical of much of the training that is available on the market.

"I don't believe in quick fixes," he says. "For training to be effective it needs to be undertaken over a period of time and should ideally include a measurement of what people can do before the start of the course so that progress can be measured. You also need to evaluate its long-term impact."

Scania's business strategy based on training has paid off. The company reached pole position in the trucks business three years ahead of schedule. And it is still committed to the value of National Training Awards.

"The next time we have a training programme that is exceptionally effective then we shall definitely enter it," says Mr Cramp.

Investing in drivers as well as diggers makes sense at Shepherd Construction

THE construction industry is bedeviled by cowboy builders, but Shepherd Construction has no such reputation—quite the reverse. Based in Yorkshire but operating nationally, Shepherd has a string of eminent clients (including, for example, Marks & Spencer) who return to the company on a regular basis.

One of Shepherd's greatest strengths is that it has a permanently employed workforce of more than 1,000. It also has a commitment to training and retaining its staff on a long-term basis.

John Foreman, the personnel director, points out that the family-owned company has a training record stretching right back to the early Sixties, when its founder, Sir Peter Shepherd, established its corporate values. That training tradition continues today under the present chairman, Paul Shepherd.

Smart builders pass the site test

Shepherd Construction is engaged on a wide spectrum of training, ranging from Modern Apprenticeships to advanced technical and management training linked to post-graduate qualifications.

"Training is focused on our operating needs," Mr Foreman says. "It is driven by hard business objectives and we are always concerned that any training programme we are involved in, at whatever level, should produce results on the bottom line."

This practical attitude has won

Shepherd two National Training Awards in recent years. "We see National Training Awards as a way of measuring ourselves against the best in the country," Mr Foreman says.

"When we win an award it is good for our pride, and also a way of showing our customers that we are concerned about the skill levels of our staff. Discriminating clients recognise the importance of that."

Mr Foreman is a keen supporter of the work done nationally by the Construction Industry Training Board to

ensure that the industry's skill needs are met. But he is worried that training is not taken seriously enough in some companies.

"Many managers take far more time and care in selecting a new JCB than in ensuring that a driver is properly trained to operate it," he says. "Yet without the right training, the equipment will not repay the investment. It is important that employers should get the right balance in their priorities and appreciate how important training is—provided it is done properly."

Mr Foreman also feels that it is too easy for managers to select off-the-shelf courses without questioning whether they will be genuinely relevant in the workplace.

"National Training Awards really test the effectiveness of training," Mr Foreman says. "That is why we think they are worthwhile."



Training award winner: a Bombardier maintenance team

Skilled personnel take off in Ulster

A global aerospace manufacturer has stayed ahead by constantly upgrading staff training

Despite the Troubles, Northern Ireland has had at least one long-running success story, with the aircraft-maker Shorts, now part of Bombardier Aerospace, the Canadian-based multinational.

During the past decade the company has won eight National Training Awards, an extraordinary achievement. The success rate, however, reflects the company's commitment to training. As the world's third largest civil aircraft manufacturer (making, for example, the Learjet, the Challenger and the Global Express), Bombardier has introduced a new aircraft every year for the past six years.

This level of innovation demands that the company cannot stand still. It needs to develop its skill base constantly, both technically and managerially.

David Molloy is the French-Canadian acting vice-president for human resources for Shorts in Belfast. "The skills of the Northern Ireland workforce are well-respected throughout the company," he says. "Laurent Beaudoin, the president of Bombardier, was commenting on them in Canada recently. And the company has a strong commitment to continue developing those skills. During the past ten years we have spent £70 million on training alone in Belfast."

But where do National Training Awards fit in? "I think that external evaluation and recogni-

tion of what one is doing is very important. It is satisfying to receive a government award of this kind," says Mr Molloy.

Although Bombardier has a strong respect for the cultural and social differences within its organisation (it operates in 11 countries across North America and Europe), it uses a common, company-wide performance management system in which skills, career development and succession planning are closely interwoven.

Based on regular personal appraisals, the planning of training is linked directly to the overall needs of the business and the career progress of each individual.

Everything, ultimately, is geared to financial results. The various National Training Award winning entries have all stemmed from this process.

Its entry for last year was typical of its approach. Featuring a training programme for employees who worked on aerospace machinery maintenance, Shorts was able to show that dependence on suppliers had been sharply reduced. This led to savings of about £3 million and a 20 per cent improvement in engineering maintenance productivity.

With results like that it is not surprising that Bombardier has no hesitation in continuing to back its training commitment in Northern Ireland—and to support the National Training Awards.

5000 من الإجمالي

More initiatives bubble in the forge

The minister in charge of boosting Britain's skills base has high hopes, says Edward Fennell

As the recently appointed Minister for Lifelong Learning, George Mudie has a down-to-earth approach to the job of steering the UK's investment in job training.

Representing a Leeds constituency that has seen a massive reduction of the local clothing industry, he knows how important it is for people to develop new skills and for communities to plan ahead to attract fresh investment and jobs.

With the task of spearheading initiatives such as the University for Industry and the new Individual Learning Accounts, Mr Mudie is confident that 1999 will be the year that training for jobs starts to attract its share of the limelight at the Department for Education and Employment.

As its annual recognition of excellence in training takes place, the National Training Awards continue to play an important part in the department's initiatives to encourage greater take-up of effective training.

Mr Mudie's particular concern is that employers should adopt a liberal approach, so that programmes are not too narrowly focused but, rather, help to develop employees' capabilities.

As its annual recognition of excellence in training the NTA continues to play an important part in the DfEE's suite of initiatives to encourage the greater take-up of effective training. In recent years, however, the number of applications for NTAs has dropped.

For example, since 1996 there has been a fall of 33 per cent. Official views are mixed on this.

The numbers of entrants may have declined, but the quality is higher and the workshops run by Tecs has led to much greater self-selection among potential applicants.

A big test for the department will be the take-up this year of Individual Learning Accounts. The Government will be making £150 a head available to 100,000 people from April. In return, those people must make a personal investment of



Mudie concerned

£25. The aim is to have a million people with learning accounts by 2002.

If the system is to work, it is vital that the money is wisely spent. Mr Mudie is keen to maximise the benefits by encouraging workers to act collectively — through their trade unions, typically — so as to gain economies of scale in buying in relevant training.

He is convinced that the na-

Labour's election campaign and the time has come to start delivering. A budget of £40 million has been allocated for the university, and an advisory board has been putting in place a three-year development plan.

Based in Sheffield, the university will aim to exploit the potential of information technology in general, and the Internet in particular, to produce a wide range of learning materials that people can easily gain access to at work or at home.

Money has been won from the European Union's Adapt scheme to fund the development projects, and the university should start to make its presence felt during the next two years.

Yet while pushing forward on these new fronts, Mr Mudie is still concerned to embed some developments from the previous administration. The increased take-up of National Vocational Qualifications, the new-style job qualifications launched a decade ago, is of continuing concern to him.

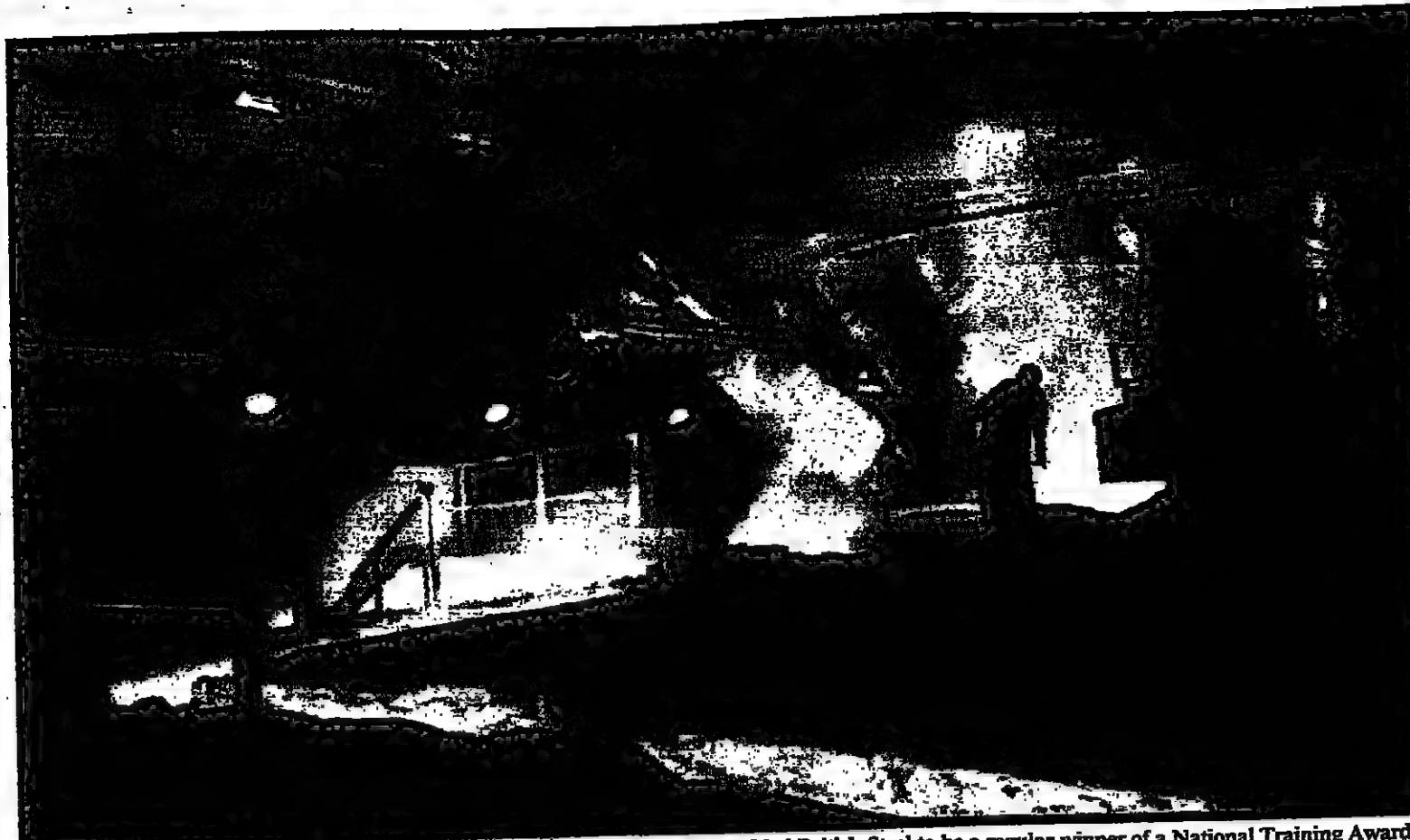
'She was so proud of her certificate that she put it up above where she worked'

Sceptical at first of the value of NVQs, he is now a supporter. "I was visiting a factory in Leeds and I met a young woman who had recently gained an NVQ. She was so proud of her achievement that she had framed the certificate and put it up above where she worked. It clearly meant a lot to her."

To achieve his ambitions for all these initiatives, Mr Mudie is keen to work with both the locally based Tecs and Lecs and the recently established National Training Organisations.

"These are people who must work directly with employers to ensure that training continues to be a high priority," he says.

The significance of National Training Awards is that they provide real-life examples of what training can achieve. "I am fully behind NTAs," Mr Mudie says. "We must work to ensure that participation continues to grow."



An excellent training schedule, such as here at the Scunthorpe works, has enabled British Steel to be a regular winner of a National Training Award

Fighting spirit the perfect weapon

An ex-soldier is promoted from manual labour to management



Mercer: combined rubbish with finance

During the four years he was in the Army, Steve Mercer acquired the skills and personal attributes of the professional soldier. When he got back to a civvy street (straight from a tour of duty in Northern Ireland) he found the personal attributes stood him in good stead, even if he could not transfer the military skills. "At first I was unemployed," he explains. "It was frustrating. I felt I had the potential to develop a good career, but it was a question of finding the right opportunity."

Mr Mercer's story has been one of rags-to-acclaim (if not riches) as a National Training Awards individual winner. He got his first permanent civilian job ten years ago, collecting Christmas rubbish as part of the Rochdale Bor-

ough Council's direct services organisation.

"When I was interviewed for the job I told the manager that I wanted first to learn to drive the truck, then to be in charge of it and then to be promoted to management," he says. "He was amazed at my attitude, and then gave me a lot of support later on."

Through plenty of hard work, training and learning in his own time — plus the support of a sympathetic employer — Mr Mercer achieved his ambitions, and more. "After working all day I used to go to college to study finance, where I was alongside people who had been sitting comfort-

ably in their offices with their Filofaxes while I was out collecting rubbish," he recalls.

Mr Mercer's resilience, a legacy from the Forces, paid off. He gained a supervisor's qualification, a Higher National Certificate in Business and Finance and various other qualifications, including a Diploma in Occupational Safety.

Meanwhile, he was being promoted at work and is now the manager responsible for health, safety and quality assurance of 1,800 staff.

His career advancement and learning success earned him a Supreme Winners Award in the National Train-

ing Awards in 1997 and the chance to meet government ministers and officials at the House of Commons.

"I firmly believe in the importance of creating opportunities for people to develop themselves," he says. "Employers should never underestimate the capabilities of their staff."

Mr Mercer's participation in the National Training Awards allowed him the opportunity to gain recognition for his achievements while highlighting just how much individuals can progress if presented with basic opportunities for self-development. And it's certainly not the end for him — he's keen to take his career to an even higher level. "I am not resting on my laurels," he says. "I want further opportunities."

Have an expert
evaluate your company's training.
You.

D/EE

If you're training or taking part in a training programme, wouldn't it be useful to know exactly how you're performing?

It's easy enough to find out. Just fill in a National Training Award entry form. You'll find that the answers you give will tell you just how well your training is working for your company.

What's more, you could win a National Training Award. And you already know how important it is to have an expert evaluate your training.

For more information, call 0800 317 7357.



THE TIMES

30th January

showroom stock

re orders

smith fabrics

upth Chair in

£1513 to order

9-8.00

H

ax: 0171-731 4451

HANDMADE FURNITURE • FABRICS • WALLPAPER • HAND COLOURED LEATHER • KILIMS

JANUARY SALE

Saturday 16th to Saturday 30th January

50% reductions on most showroom stock

25% off new furniture orders

30% off George Smith fabrics

As illustrated - Standard Large Depth Chair in 'Gollut' fabric - was £2055, now £1513 to order

SALE HOURS Monday to Saturday: 10.00-6.00

GEORGE SMITH

587-589 KINGS ROAD LONDON SW6 2EH Tel: 0171-384 1004 Fax: 0171-731 4451

LISTINGS

Schoolgirls' new opera

RECOMMENDED TODAY

Guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Mark Hargis

LONDON

MEASURE FOR MEASURE Stephen Sondheim's superbly staged production of Shakespeare's comedy is a most welcome play. (171-338 8891). Open tonight, 7pm, in repertory. (5)

STONE ANGELS Paul Darrow's new opera features a cast of 30 schoolgirls from the acclaimed New London Children's Choir and tells the story of a group of girls stranded on a Greek island at the outbreak of the Second World War. For this premiere Odette de la Martinez conducts her ensemble Lontano. (171-338 8892). Tonight and tomorrow, 8pm. (5)

THE DECEIVED The Italian source for Shakespeare's Twelfth Night but much more of a cross-dressing comedy. Kenneth Branagh's production for the Theatre Royal is a production for the 1230s. (171-338 8893). Open tonight, 7pm. (5)

ELSEWHERE LIVERPOOL: Stage music features prominently in this concert as the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra performs extracts from Richard Strauss's *Elsewhere*. The evening also offers Sarsa's seductive Carmen Fantasy for Violin, and Saint-Saëns's mighty Organ Symphony. (171-338 8894). Open tonight, 7.30pm. (5)

POOLE In a concert boasting a double dose of distinguished Russian musical artists Dmitri Kozlov



Boris Berezovsky plays Beethoven in Poole

conducts the Birmingham Symphony Orchestra in a programme of Russian and Shostakovich, with Boris Berezovsky as soloist in Beethoven's Third Piano Concerto. (171-338 8895). Open tonight, 7.30pm. (5)

YORK The vibrant young ensemble Capricorn performs an engaging programme of chamber music opening with Bartók's Concerto followed by Mozart's Quartet for piano and wind in E flat, and concluding with Brahms's Piano Quintet in G minor. (171-338 8896). Open tonight, 7.30pm. (5)

NEW WEST END SHOWS

Jeremy Kingston's choice of theatre showing in London

House full, returns only (5) Some seats available (5) Seats at all prices

RICHARD III Robert Lindsay puts on the hump for David Hare's production, transfer from Stratford. (171-338 8897). (5)

THE COLOUR OF JUSTICE Dramatised reconstruction of the Stephen Lawrence inquiry. Titled to coincide with the monthly publication of the findings. (171-338 8898). (5)

IN FLAMES The largest worlds of a modern woman and an Edwardian man (Valerie Cogan, Emma Lowery) in Charles Jones's new play, directed by Anne Macken. (171-338 8899). (5)

THE GLORY OF LIVING Beasts debut for Alabama-born Rebecca Galt's drama of exorcism and danger in the trailer parks. (171-338 8900). (5)

KRAPP'S LAST TAPE Edward Petherbridge's laudatory performance as Beckett's amnesiac replaying

last time. Also the rarely performed *Breath* — duration: 35 seconds. (171-338 8901). (5)

THE END OF THE FLOOD Wilson Golding's vivid tale of terror and death on paradise island, adapted by Nigel Williams and directed by Marcus Porter for the Theatre Co. (171-338 8902). (5)

THE MEMORY OF WATER Alison Seaman, Lorraine Bond and Julia Sweeney star in Shogun Stephens's acclaimed drama of family members. (171-338 8903). (5)

THE STREET OF CROCODILES Welcome return for Theatre de Complicité's innovative staging of Bruno Schull's musical reflections of pre-Nazi Poland. (171-338 8904). (5)

VASSA Sheila Hancock heads a terrific cast in Galt's strong drama. Howard Davies directs a new version for the Almeida season. (171-338 8905). (5)

FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE

James Christopher's choice of the latest movies

NEW RELEASES

MEET JOE BLACK (12): Brad Pitt's career, charming Joe Black, aka Death, takes Anthony Hopkins to a media tycoon to introduce him to the joys of life. Director Martin Scorsese tries to give credibility to both characters, but ends up with a long-winded, uneven melodrama. (171-338 8906). (5)

THE OPPOSITE OF SEX (15): Christine Ricci plays a madly 16-year-old who seduces her boyfriend by seducing his boyfriend and high-rolling it to LA. A blistering comedy on political correctness. (171-338 8907). (5)

BUTTONED UP (16): Ingrid Isak-Hansen's low-budget film by Per Zelenka that sketches six stories about modern men in a dark, bleak, and sometimes funny, sometimes scary, sometimes sad.

DOBERMANN (16): Stylish French comedy movie by Jean Kounen with Vincent Cassel as the charismatic leader of a gang of underworld bank robbers. Fabulously chic, grossly amusing, and awesomely incorrect. (171-338 8908). (5)

SOUR GRAPES (15): Elton dressed up as a film by Larry David. Two comedies (Craig Beckie and Steven Weller) look out over a packed view in Atlantic city. Stars getting mildly amusing when Walter's brain surgeon accidentally introduces a patient.

LITTLE VOICE (15): Mark Horman's wonderful version of Jim Carver's stage hit. Jane Horrocks sings glorious songs of love and loss. Michael Caine, Ewan McGregor, Brenda Blethyn and Jim Broadbent make an excellent cast.

THE SIEGE (15): Dorel Washington, Arnette Bening, and Bruce Willis tell over each other's shoulders as they try to defuse an Arab terrorist offensive in Manhattan. Chillingly real, beautifully acted.

IN (15): Low-budget sci-fi adventure by David Aronoff that charts the madness of a genius mathematician who is haunted by nightmares and money-hungry investors. Seen Quake in the moonlighting lead.

ARTS

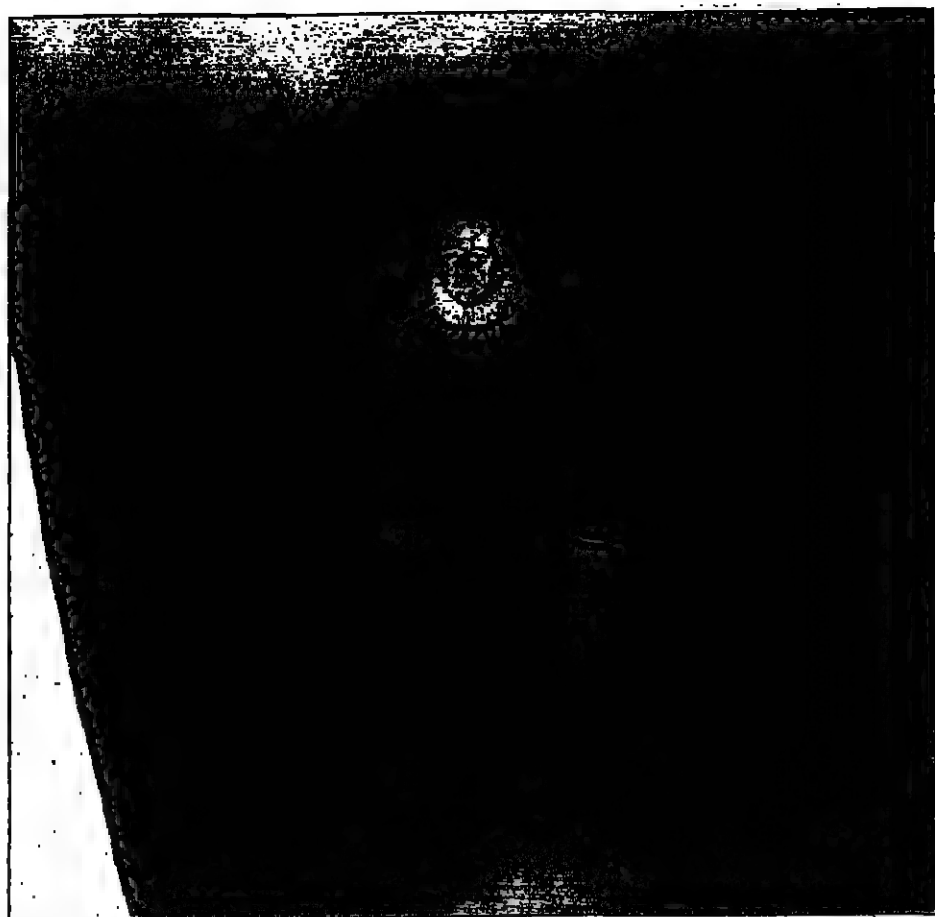
Whether loved or loathed, Julian Schnabel now demands our respect, says Rachel Campbell-Johnston

Julian Schnabel comes with a prepackaged reputation. The centre-spread of the 1980s New York art world, he was famed as the biggest, brashest, most bombastic artist in America: an habitué of its glitziest parties, a feature of its glossiest magazines. His personality was as publicised as his painting, and to many the soaring career of this Bronx boy made millionaires came to represent all that was achievable through sheer force of self-belief. Schnabel became a symbol of the American Dream.

But the British were reluctant to buy into this transatlantic commodity. When Schnabel last showed here, more than ten years ago, the hackles of the critics were raised. He was the product of a preposterously overinflated American art market, they said. Branded as a consummate marketing man, Schnabel was attacked as an arrogant, opinionated egomaniac, a brash American brat whose work had all the weight of a publicity stunt.

Such vitriol makes one wonder. In the art market Schnabel is a heavyweight. His pieces have been acquired by many of the major galleries, by the Pompidou, the Whitney and the Tate. They have changed hands for more than \$1 million. Suddenly, the critics' animosity begins to seem suspiciously similar to the pique of some likely lad out on the town who, meeting a prize fighter in some basement bar, picks a fight and takes a pop at him, just to prove that he's not impressed. Surely any artist who can shake up such extreme reactions, such an inflammatory cocktail of aggression and praise, is worth a closer look?

The abandoned energy of the works in Schnabel's new show at the South London Gallery is striking: epic arenas flailed with paint, three canvases looming against stark white walls. They were painted for an Ancient Roman temple, the Maison Carré at Nîmes. And the context was to provide the inspiration. "I was thinking about gladiatorial contests," Schnabel says, "and about the bullfight at Nîmes. When a bull dies it draws in blood across the sand." In his



Julian Schnabel's Portrait of José Ramón Artero, with characteristic splash of white paint

painting *AD*, the red paint smears wounds across the rough, raw cloth.

Working on these paintings in his roofless Long Island studio, hurling a pigment-drenched tablecloth at the surfaces, Schnabel spread himself against billowing canvases wrenched from their stretchers by sudden winds. "I felt like Captain Ahab, beckoning from the dead," he says. And suddenly it's easy to imagine this thickest man, with up-thrust beard and fist aloft, roaring at the tempest and the great white canvas. Suddenly you can imagine the sneaking wind and blazoned light, and find their traces in his work. As images and associations stream unstructured from his mind, Schnabel reveals his greatest talent: to reel listeners into his enthusiasms. "Painting is like whaling," he explains. "Casting out into the ocean, seeing what you can get. I think of these works as the banners or flags of some vast eternity, of heaven."

But the huge canvases of his triptych are quite different from the mock period portraits which Schnabel displays alongside them in his current show. Full-length Velázquez-style figures gleam sickly behind a lurid glare. There is a stylistic disparity which breeds doubt. Where dedication to a single passion is often taken as proof of authenticity, Schnabel is threateningly omnivorous. Superficial, many have said. Since he first gained public notice with por-

traits painted on a surface of china shards — instant Cubism on a cup — he has moved restlessly from Abstraction to Expressionism to Conceptualism and back again. He has recorded a rock album. He has made a film about the graffiti



In his London show, Schnabel reveals his greatest talent: to reel listeners into his enthusiasms?

artist Jean-Michel Basquiat's life. He is currently working on another movie, about the Cuban writer Reinaldo Arenas. He devours all media with gluttonous voracity, seemingly mindless of the need for naïveté or slow-earned skill.

While the broad theme of time informs all the works in this show, Schnabel is dismissive of formulaic practices. The white enamel splashed across the surface of his portraits represents a veil of temporality. And yet it is absent from one of the pictures. "I don't think I need the same tools, or the same kind of solutions, for each painting," he explains. Schnabel simply allows his own energy and enthusiasm, his own violently tossing and turning ideas, to create the binding force for his art. There is a sense that they are valid simply because it was he who made them. And in this sense Schnabel becomes a role model for the Brit-pack artists who arrogate if ironic self-belief has become characteristic.

Of course the more traditional art appreciator will complain that Schnabel has little ability; that, put quite simply, he can't actually paint. Art colleges all over Britain are turning out students who can represent the nude, who can compose and model and draw better than Schnabel has ever done. But if art is about an individual's expression, about contemporary cultural comment and the innovative interpretation of the mood of an age, then the worse Schnabel seems as a technician or craftsman, the more interesting he becomes as an artist.

Julian Schnabel, South London Gallery, 65 Peckham Road, London SE5 0ET (0171-703 6120) until February 28

GALLERIES

Provocative Mr Schnabel

In the country of the damned

I fear a performer embodied the grief that has separated country music from British popular taste over the past 20 years, it is Reba McEntire. The 44-year-old singer, originally from Oklahoma, released her first album in 1978, since when she has sold more records than either Tammy Wynette or Dolly Parton. But until recently McEntire has remained virtually unknown in this country. "We've got a lot of catching up to do," she informed the audience at the Theatre Royal on Sunday night, at the tail-end of her first British tour.

The ensuing set incorporated many of the songs from her career. From the opening bars of *Why Haven't I Heard From You*, McEntire assumed command of the fiercely raked stage, while her ten-piece band kept out of the spotlight. Their sound was in the modern country-rock idiom — dominated by guitars, horns and a solid backbeat while the pedal steel and fiddle were relegated to the margins — and it was easy to hear why, virtually alone of her peers from the 1970s and 1980s, McEntire has flourished in the era of Garth Brooks.

McEntire's speciality is the cheating song, and on numbers such as *What's in Your New England* and *You Lie Here* she was simultaneously accusa-

POP



ry and pained. At her most ostensibly powerful she strayed into the blustery ballad territory of Celine Dion, but there were more intimate moments too, as when she sang *How Blue* as a harmony bluegrass rag, accompanied only by acoustic guitars and fiddle. Although she wrote none of them, various songs were linked to snippets of autobiographical information, including sentimental descriptions of her father's heart bypass surgery (*The Greatest Man I Never Knew*), and the night in 1991 when seven members of her band died in a plane crash (*For My Broken Heart*).

However, the high point of the show was a searing version of her Grammy award-winning song *Does He Love You*, a duet with backing singer Linda Davis playing the role of the Other Woman. The two women, each ring-fenced in their own circle of light, confronted each other with harshly opposing viewpoints, and a rich vein of highly charged emotion was explored.

DAVID SINCLAIR

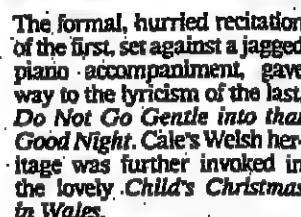
Black Velvet

FOR someone whose career has been lived in rock's shadow corners, John Cale has recently been spending a lot of time in the limelight. Within the past month, there has been a BBC documentary, the publication of his autobiography and now his first tour in 15 years. And there's a compilation album out soon.

But, despite all this personal attention, Cale remains better known for his associations than for his solo projects. The most famous of those connections is, of course, with Lou Reed and the Velvet Underground. Press extracts of his book have dwelt almost exclusively on his time with that seminal 1960s band and its figurehead — even the advance publicity for the extracts used Reed's photo, not Cale's.

His live show, though, goes some way to righting the balance. At Cambridge's Corn Exchange there was only a passing reference to the Velvets, in a song from the tribute album to Andy Warhol, *Songs for Drella*. Otherwise, Cale's set drew from the mix of the experimental and the classical, of pure pop and punk passion, that has marked his restless musical life.

Cale began with three settings of Dylan-Thomas poems.



The formal, hurried recitation of the first, set against a jagged piano accompaniment, gave way to the lyricism of the last, *Do Not Go Gentle into that Good Night*. Cale's Welsh heritage was further invoked in the lovely *Child's Christmas in Wales*.

But, as always with Cale, the lilt of the rhythms and the easy grace of the melodies mask a darker sentiment than nostalgia. There is a steely-eyed, almost morbid harshness to his songwriting. His lyrics are littered with references to death, dying and hangman's nooses. Cale is not offering comfort to troubled souls; just more trouble.

He was aided by the subtle contributions of Lance Doss and Mark Deffenbaugh, the trill of Deffenbaugh's harmonica and the glissando from Doss's lap steel guitar serving as sound effects to Cale's scenarios. It is impossible not to be captivated by this intense, wise man and his sweet songs about bitter lessons.

JOHN STREET

ART GALLERIES

BLAKE CALDWELL (1940-1998) The artist's work is shown in a retrospective at the Tate Modern. (171-338 8909). (5)

LUCY WHEATMAN — Estate Sale. (171-338 8910). (5)

JEAN-JACQUES VESPA (1924-1998) The artist's work is shown in a retrospective at the Tate Modern. (171-338 8911). (5)

THE BARBER OF SEVILLE (171-338 8912). (5)

SANKAI JUKU (171-338 8913). (5)

THEATRES (171-338 8914). (5)

THEATRES

APOLLO THEATRE (171-338 8915). (5)

THEATRE (171-338 8916). (5)

THEATRE (171-338 8917). (5)

THEATRE (171-338 8918). (5)

THEATRE (171-338 8919). (5)

THEATRE (171-338 8920). (5)

THEATRE (171-338 8921). (5)

THEATRE (171-338 8922). (5)

THEATRE (171-338 8923). (5)

THEATRE (171-338 8924). (5)

THEATRE (171-338 8925). (5)

THEATRE (171-338 8926). (5)

THEATRE (171-338 8927). (5)

THEATRE (171-338 8928). (5)

THEATRE (171-338 8929). (5)

THEATRE (171-338 8930). (5)

THEATRE (171-338 8931). (5)

THEATRE (171-338 8932). (5)

THEATRE (171-338 8933). (5)

THEATRE (171-338 8934). (5)

THEATRE (171-338 8935). (5)

THEATRE (171-338 8936). (5)

THEATRE (171-338 8937). (5)

THEATRE (171-338 8938). (5)

THEATRE (171-338 8939). (5)

THEATRE (171-338 8940). (5)

THEATRE (171-338 8941). (5)

THEATRE (171-338 8942). (5)

THEATRE (171-338 8943). (5)

THEATRE (171-338 8944). (5)

THEATRE (171-338 8945). (5)

THEATRE (171-338 8946). (5)

THEATRE (171-338 8947). (5)

THEATRE (171-338 8948). (5)

THEATRE (171-338 8949). (5)

THEATRE (171-338 8950). (5)

THEATRE (171-338 8951). (5)

THEATRE (171-338 8952). (5)

THEATRE (171-338 8953). (5)

THEATRE (171-338 8954). (5)

THEATRE (171-338 8955). (5)

THEATRE (171-338 8956). (5)

THEATRE (171-338 8957). (5)

THEATRE (171-338 8958). (5)

THEATRE (171-338 8959). (5)

THEATRE (171-338 8960). (5)

THEATRE (171-338 8961). (5)

THEATRE (171-338 8962). (5)

THEATRE (171-338 8963). (5)

THEATRE (171-338 8964). (5)

THEATRE (171-338 8965). (5)

THEATRE (171-338 8966). (5)

THEATRE (171-338 8967). (5)

THEATRE (171-338 8968). (5)

"AN EPIC FOR OUR EPOCH"

Director Stephen Daldry's latest production is a masterpiece of modern theatre. It tells the story of a man who is a modern-day Prometheus, bringing fire to the world. The production is a visual feast, with stunning set design and costumes. It is a must-see for anyone who loves theatre.

Inspector Calls • GARRICK THEATRE

Robert Lindsay in glittering form

Richard

SAVOY THEATRE (SEE LISTINGS)

AN INSPECTOR CALLS

Two hours of extraordinary visual splendour. A must-see for anyone who loves theatre.

Inspector Calls • GARRICK THEATRE

THEATRE (171-338 8969). (5)

THEATRE (171-338 8970). (5)

THEATRE (171-338 8971). (5)

THEATRE (171-338 8972). (5)

THEATRE (171-338 8973). (5)

THEATRE (171-338 8974). (5)

THEATRE (171-338 8975). (5)

THEATRE (171-338 8976). (5)

THEATRE (171-338 8977). (5)

THEATRE (171-338 8978). (5)

THEATRE (171-338 8979). (5)

THEATRE (171-338 8980). (5)

LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES

TO PLACE NOTICES FOR THESE SECTIONS PLEASE:

Telephone 0171 680 6878

Fax 0171 782 7930

Or Email tn.features@newsint.co.uk

Notices are subject to confirmation and should be received by 2.30pm two days prior to insertion.

It's Food taste out news

WINE FESTIVAL

le

W

T

NEW HOMES

MOVE IN FOR FREE!

NO DEPOSIT!

NO LEGAL FEES!



Within close proximity of Canary Wharf.

Few remaining - all with water aspect.

2 Bed. Apartments from £165,000

Private mews with secure car parking.

10 mins walk approx DLR Crossharbour.

0171 515 1939

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

COUNTY Nottingham Co. Nottingham
 2 beds, 0154 266 2623

SOMERSET

2 beds, 0154 266 2623
 2 beds, 0154 266 2623

PROPERTY WANTED

Wanted

LAND/SITES - Without Planning Permission but with possible development potential. Preferably in or on the edge of village/town/city locations in Cheshire & North West (but all areas within the UK considered). We are prepared to take all the costs & risks in obtaining planning. Our planning consultants are experts. We are interested in any land, from small parcels to significant acreage. Brownfield, difficult situations, problem, redundant & bad neighbour sites all considered. We are particularly interested in land that either has no planning history or where planning consent has been refused - or where a permission may be obtained. PLEASE FORWARD LOCATION PLANS & ANY PLANNING HISTORY DETAILS (WITHOUT OBLIGATION) TO:

GOLDFINCH

Land Brokers & Planning Promotion
 Goldfinch (Project) Ltd,
 Essex, West Road, Wivenhoe, Chelmsford CM8 3HH.
 Tel: 01228 787800 Fax: 01606 854222
 Web: <http://www.goldfinch.co.uk/home/gfindex.htm>

NEW HOMES

10% DEPOSIT PAID!

1 YEARS SERVICE CHARGE PAID!

FLEXIBLE PARKING TERMS!

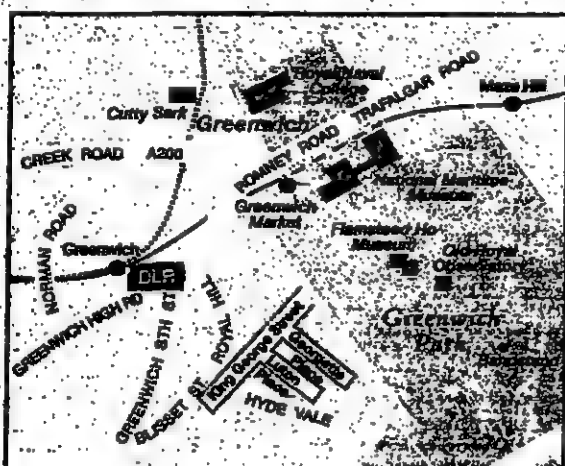
IMMEDIATE OCCUPATION 2 Beds from £250,000

0171 378 3474

WAREHOUSE APARTMENTS

GREENWICH

King George Quarter - Elegant new family houses within Greenwich conservation area



- Fashionable location • City & West End 16 mins. DR
- En-suite bathrooms • Private off-street parking
- Prices from *£339,950
- Sales centre open NOW 10am to 6pm daily

Telephone 0181 293 0559

PHASE 2
50% RESERVED

DUNBAR WHARF, NARROW STREET, LIMEHOUSE E14

SERIOUSLY SWEEPING RIVER VIEWS

LANDMARK LIMEHOUSE LOCATION



Luxury waterside one, two and three bedroom apartments and one, two and three bedroom duplexes

- Sweeping river views
- Larger than average living areas with river facing floor-to-ceiling patio doors
- Luxury duplexes available, some with large private terraces
- Wide range of individual layouts available
- Outstanding specification including luxury fitted kitchen with full range of appliances, fully fitted bathrooms and en-suites, mix of wood-strip floors and high quality fitted carpets
- Video entry system
- Lifts to all floors
- Secure, allocated undercover parking
- Gymnasium
- Portage
- Desirable location on historic Narrow Street

PRICES FROM ONLY
 £125,000 - £360,000

FEBRER

DTZ Debenham Thorpe Residential

SALES CENTRE & SHOW APARTMENT OPEN FRIDAY - MONDAY INCLUSIVE 10.30AM - 5.30PM

TEL: 0171 536 9380

Over two-thirds of the House is committed



Prices from £205,000 to £545,000

Telephone: 0171 630 9700

DTZ Debenham Thorpe Residential

OVER 65% SOLD!

سكزا من لايمل

Rachmans need not apply

Letting a property will soon be less complicated thanks to a new scheme, says Rachel Kelly

Successive British housing ministers have faced the same challenge for the past decade: how to revive the private rented sector. It is a peculiarly British problem in that the private rented sector is one in which relationships between landlords and tenants are often fraught, making this sector smaller in the UK than elsewhere.

A scheme launched this week should help to ease that tension, reduce the need for development of the green belt and cut down the number of empty properties.

Hilary Armstrong, the Housing Minister, said at the inauguration of the National Approved Letting Scheme (NALS): "The lettings industry has suffered from a poor image. We want this scheme to work so that out of this we know that there is a good, private landlord and this scheme will ensure their rights are respected and upheld."

Ted Watts, chairman of Empty Homes Agency (EHA), the housing charity that will administer the scheme, said: "The scheme will increase incomes of property owners, reduce the use of bed and breakfast accommodation for the homeless, reduce the need for greenfield development and reduce the level of crime by having fewer empty properties."

The main difference between the new scheme and the present arrangements is a three-stage complaints-redress system, and ultimately an independent arbitration service if landlords are unhappy with their letting agent.

Tenants may use the internal complaints procedure and mediation if they are unhappy with the letting agent, but only landlords are eligible to proceed to the arbitration scheme if a complaint is not amicably resolved. The other difference is one of degree. This is a detailed code of practice which will enforce higher standards.

At least 3,000 of the 13,000 letting agents working in the sector are likely to join up because they are members of the professional bodies that have backed the scheme. It is hoped



Ken Ruse

that the other 10,000 will sign up, at a cost of £120 plus VAT when consumers begin to demand the higher standards of NALS agents.

Simon Agace, chairman of Winkworth, London's largest chain of agents, says he will instruct all his 35 franchisees to join. "Of course, the independent professional bodies have codes of practice for letting agents, but this is different. It is more far-reaching and more user-friendly. It is entirely new. It will change the marketplace."

There is nothing in the scheme that can do anything about tenants who never intend to pay rent and the misery of landlords chasing their rent through the courts. But the extra care that the code imposes on agents to interview prospective tenants should help to eliminate some of the worst offenders. Nor can the scheme deal with problems arising from rent paid by the Department of Health and Social Security.

Local authorities can withhold money from agents to the fury of

landlords, many of whom have refused to let their properties to social security tenants. Conversely, tenants will be reassured by the knowledge that NALS agents will manage the tenancy professionally by applying standards contained within the scheme.

But the Government's backing will help those who doubt a Labour Government's commitment to a vibrant, private rented sector. Their fears were heightened before Christmas when Mrs Armstrong announced

plans to limit increases for Britain's 250,000 fair rent tenants by applying a formula linked to the retail price index.

Her move dismayed some of the existing landlords and bodies such as the British Property Federation, which argued against such interference in an open market. However, regulatory tenants are a small part of the market - many are elderly and no new regulatory tenancies are being created. The letting scheme is aimed at the mainstream market

and not the sector affected by the proposed rent controls.

At the launch of the scheme at the Royal Society of Arts, Mrs Armstrong reaffirmed the Government's commitment to assured shorthold tenancies, the main vehicle for letting, which has done most to revitalize the sector, and her commitment to the private rented sector in general. The scheme should prove a welcome successor to the assured shorthold tenancies and reinforce their success.

HOW THE SCHEME WORKS

AGENTS who belong to the National Approved Letting Scheme (NALS) subscribe to a code of practice that will ease the path of landlords, Ben Wakeham writes. The scheme will be administered by the Empty Homes Agency (EHA), which wants empty property brought back into use. It is backed by the Housing Corporation, which funds housing associations, the Association of Residential Letting Agents (ARLA), the Incorporated Society of Valuers and Auctioneers (ISVA), the National Association of Estate Agents (NAEA) and the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS).

Jeremy Diment, of the EHA, says: "When deciding to let your house or flat, having a good agent to handle the letting saves time and minimises stress. NALS is a self-regulatory body and the scheme sets out defined minimum service standards, which NALS agents must provide, backed up by the agents' regulatory bodies. This scheme will make it easier by providing a list of do's and don'ts for letting agents, with the backing and help of professional bodies to provide administrative back-up."

If you want to let a property, a NALS agent will arrange a visit to advise on rights and responsibilities, what action to take if the property is mortgaged, advice on insurance and safety checks. The agent will show the property to potential tenants and choose one with your agreement. He will provide a report on the condition of the property and a list of contents, fill in a tenancy agreement and either take a deposit to protect against damage or agree another form of guarantee. Finally, he will transfer bills into the tenant's name subject to the limitations imposed by the Data Protection Act.

DURING the tenancy, the agent will collect the rent and visit the property to see that it is being looked after and arrange to have routine maintenance work carried out up to an agreed limit. He will respond to tenant inquiries and ensure prompt payment of money owed.

Before the tenancy ends, the agent will give advice on the client's options, including reviewing the rent. If the client wants to end the tenancy, he will serve the correct notices and check the condition of the house and discuss any repairs before refunding the deposit.

Mr Diment says: "This is a big step forward. Lettings and management standards will be greatly improved. The fact that the main bodies have joined should give the public confidence." The scheme has a complaints redress system backed by professional indemnity insurance. A money protection scheme for clients will be operated by NALS agents that are members of ARLA, ISVA, NAEA and RICS.

More information from NALS and EHA, 195-197 Victoria Street, London SW1E 5NE; 0171-828 2266; fax, 0171-828 7006; e-mail, eha@emcmail.com.

SMART MOVES

A FLAT in Palace Court, Notting Hill, W2, which was home to the Duchess of York last summer, is available to rent. The four-bedroom house dating back to 1899 makes the perfect stop-over for the seasoned traveller: it is close to the new Heathrow shuttle service and yet is still near the heart of Notting Hill. The flat is for rent through Cluttons Daniel Smith Hyde Park office for £2,700 a week.

SIR Evelyn de Rothschild, chairman of N M Rothschild & Sons, one of the world's oldest independent financial institutions, has bought 6 Cheyne Walk for £12 million.

A HOUSE designed by Robert Lutyens, the son of Sir Edwin Lutyens, is for sale. Ridge-mead House in Englefield Green, Surrey, was commissioned by Captain Woolf Barnatt in 1938. The design of the house and gardens is in the Spanish Mission style. Captain Barnatt drove for the Bentley Motors Racing Team in the 1920s and won at Le Mans in 1928, 1929 and 1930 in the Speed Six. He became the chairman of Bentley Motors before it was taken over by Rolls-Royce in 1931. Knight Frank is selling the house for £2 million.

VISCOUNT LINLEY is selling his house on the Caribbean island of Mustique. Les Jolies Eaux was designed in 1971 for Princess Margaret by Linley's great-uncle Oliver Messel. In 1988 the Princess gave the six-bedroom home to her son, Stuart N. Siegal, the president and managing director of Sotheby's International Realty, which is marketing the property. Says: "The house is a casual retreat with an important heritage of ownership and design." The house is on offer for £2.6 million.

A CONVERTED watermill in East Anglia is the first property in Britain to be offered for sale exclusively in euros. The owner is a former City trader. The mill, built in 1814, is set in an acre of water meadow and has been refurbished. The house is for sale for £700,000.

BEN WAKEHAM

Lettings Directory

Association of Residential Letting Agents

CENTRAL LONDON

Spencer
SALES & LETTINGS
Kensington 0171 937 7777
Chiswick 0181 996 5439
Ealing 0181 997 5777
Residential Lettings and Professional Property Management
"West London's professional agent"

TOWNENDS

RESIDENTIAL LETTINGS & MANAGEMENT
Brook Green 0171 602 5666
Chiswick 0181 994 7022
Ealing 0181 579 9282
Notting Hill Gate 0171 792 9977
Putney 0181 785 4255
St John's Wood 0171 372 9900
South Kensington 0171 244 9911

Experience the Townends Difference

ARLA

Association of Residential Letting Agents

- Provides financial security through a clients money bonding scheme
- Sets strict criteria for membership and operates a stringent code of practice
- Provides extensive training for members and promotes high management standards
- The voice of the private rented sector influencing government policy and legislation
- Over 1,300 member offices covering the whole of the UK through 21 regional branches
- The only professional body dedicated solely to the residential lettings market

FRIEND & FAIR
293 Brompton Road
London SW3 2DZ
Tel: 0171 225 0814
Fax: 0171 581 0720

BIRCH & CO
18 Jermyn Street
London SW1Y 6HP
Tel: 0171 734 7432
Fax: 0171 439 4742

FAW C&P
Contact:
Tracy Conolly
Kate Agnew
or Nicola Palmer
5 Eldon St
London W8 7SP
Tel: 0171 243 0964
Fax: 0171 727 7359

IRONSIDES
34 Beauchamp Place
Knightsbridge
London SW3 1JN
0171 581 5877

BIRCH & CO
18 Jermyn Street
London SW1Y 6HP
Tel: 0171 734 7432
Fax: 0171 439 4742

CLUTTONS
Daniel Smith
SLOANE AVENUE, 71 Sloane Avenue, London SW3 3DE
Tel: 0171 584 3333 Fax: 0171 584 1054
ST JAMES PLACE, 21 Abingdon Road, London W2 1AS
Tel: 0171 262 2226 Fax: 0171 262 1166
TOWER BRIDGE, 5 Chesham Street, London SW3 3DE
Tel: 0171 407 3668 Fax: 0171 407 4479
ST JOHN'S WOOD, 53 Chesham Street, London NW8 6JN
Tel: 0171 584 3668 Fax: 0171 734 1717
MILGROVE, 53 Chesham Street, London SW3 3DE
Tel: 0171 237 7575 Fax: 0171 237 7578

Sullivan Thomas
361 Fulham Palace Road,
London SW6 6TA
Tel: 0171 731 4467
19 Belvedere Road,
London SW16 2JL
Tel: 0181 682 3121
Fax: 0181 682 0969
www.sullivanthomas.co.uk

DOCKLANDS

211 East Thames, Port of London
Tel: 0171 225 0814
Fax: 0171 225 0814

DUNCAN ALLEN
212 Tower Bridge Road,
London SE1 2UP
Tel: 0171 407 2706
Fax: 0171 407 2706

TO ADVERTISE

IN THE
ARLA
SECTION
CALL
CHRIS
MARSHALL
ON
0171 680
6204

CHESTERIONS
Barnes 0181 748 7733 Kensington 0171 937 7268
Bathurst 0171 924 3344 Little Venice 0171 266 2349
Chiswick 0171 589 4585 Mayfair 0171 629 4513
Clapham 0181 747 3133 Wimbledon 0181 879 7922
Fulham 0171 734 3111 Putney 0171 834 9999
Hampstead 0171 794 1125 Palmers 0181 788 4551
Hyde Park 0171 262 5668 Tower Bridge 0171 357 6911

LONDON RENTALS

ABSOLUTE Managers, W1, Regent St, London W1A 1AA
Tel: 0171 495 6114/495 6115/495 6116/495 6117/495 6118/495 6119/495 6120/495 6121/495 6122/495 6123/495 6124/495 6125/495 6126/495 6127/495 6128/495 6129/495 6130/495 6131/495 6132/495 6133/495 6134/495 6135/495 6136/495 6137/495 6138/495 6139/495 6140/495 6141/495 6142/495 6143/495 6144/495 6145/495 6146/495 6147/495 6148/495 6149/495 6150/495 6151/495 6152/495 6153/495 6154/495 6155/495 6156/495 6157/495 6158/495 6159/495 6160/495 6161/495 6162/495 6163/495 6164/495 6165/495 6166/495 6167/495 6168/495 6169/495 6170/495 6171/495 6172/495 6173/495 6174/495 6175/495 6176/495 6177/495 6178/495 6179/495 6180/495 6181/495 6182/495 6183/495 6184/495 6185/495 6186/495 6187/495 6188/495 6189/495 6190/495 6191/495 6192/495 6193/495 6194/495 6195/495 6196/495 6197/495 6198/495 6199/495 6200/495 6201/495 6202/495 6203/495 6204/495 6205/495 6206/495 6207/495 6208/495 6209/495 6210/495 6211/495 6212/495 6213/495 6214/495 6215/495 6216/495 6217/495 6218/495 6219/495 6220/495 6221/495 6222/495 6223/495 6224/495 6225/495 6226/495 6227/495 6228/495 6229/495 6230/495 6231/495 6232/495 6233/495 6234/495 6235/495 6236/495 6237/495 6238/495 6239/495 6240/495 6241/495 6242/495 6243/495 6244/495 6245/495 6246/495 6247/495 6248/495 6249/495 6250/495 6251/495 6252/495 6253/495 6254/495 6255/495 6256/495 6257/495 6258/495 6259/495 6260/495 6261/495 6262/495 6263/495 6264/495 6265/495 6266/495 6267/495 6268/495 6269/495 6270/495 6271/495 6272/495 6273/495 6274/495 6275/495 6276/495 6277/495 6278/495 6279/495 6280/495 6281/495 6282/495 6283/495 6284/495 6285/495 6286/495 6287/495 6288/495 6289/495 6290/495 6291/495 6292/495 6293/495 6294/495 6295/495 6296/495 6297/495 6298/495 6299/495 6300/495 6301/495 6302/495 6303/495 6304/495 6305/495 6306/495 6307/495 6308/495 6309/495 6310/495 6311/495 6312/495 6313/495 6314/495 6315/495 6316/495 6317/495 6318/495 6319/495 6320/495 6321/495 6322/495 6323/495 6324/495 6325/495 6326/495 6327/495 6328/495 6329/495 6330/495 6331/495 6332/495 6333/495 6334/495 6335/495 6336/495 6337/495 6338/495 6339/495 6340/495 6341/495 6342/495 6343/495 6344/495 6345/495 6346/495 6347/495 6348/495 6349/495 6350/495 6351/495 6352/495 6353/495 6354/495 6355/495 6356/495 6357/495 6358/495 6359/495 6360/495 6361/495 6362/495 6363/495 6364/495 6365/495 6366/495 6367/495 6368/495 6369/495 6370/495 6371/495 6372/495 6373/495 6374/495 6375/495 6376/495 6377/495 6378/495 6379/495 6380/495 6381/495 6382/495 6383/495 6384/495 6385/495 6386/495 6387/495 6388/495 6389/495 6390/495 6391/495 6392/495 6393/495 6394/495 6395/495 6396/495 6397/495 6398/495 6399/495 6400/495 6401/495 6402/495 6403/495 6404/495 6405/495 6406/495 6407/495 6408/495 6409/495 6410/495 6411/495 6412/495 6413/495 6414/495 6415/495 6416/495 6417/495 6418/495 6419/495 6420/495 6421/495 6422/495 6423/495 6424/495 6425/495 6426/495 6427/495 6428/495 6429/495 6430/495 6431/495 6432/495 6433/495 6434/495 6435/495 6436/495 6437/495 6438/495 6439/495 6440/495 6441/495 6442/495 6443/495 6444/495 6445/495 6446/495 6447/495 6448/495 6449/495 6450/495 6451/495 6452/495 6453/495 6454/495 6455/495 6456/495 6457/495 6458/495 6459/495 6460/495 6461/495 6462/495 6463/495 6464/495 6465/495 6466/495 6467/495 6468/495 6469/495 6470/495 6471/495 6472/495 6473/495 6474/495 6475/495 6476/495 6477/495 6478/495 6479/495 6480/495 6481/495 6482/495 6483/495 6484/495 6485/495 6486/495 6487/495 6488/495 6489/495 6490/495 6491/495 6492/495 6493/495 6494/495 6495/495 6496/495 6497/495 6498/495 6499/495 6500/495 6501/495 6502/495 6503/495 6504/495 6505/495 6506/495 6507/495 6508/495 6509/495 6510/495 6511/495 6512/495 6513/495 6514/495 6515/495 6516/495 6517/495 6518/495 6519/495 6520/495 6521/495 6522/495 6523/495 6524/495 6525/495 6526/495 6527/495 6528/495 6529/495 6530/495 6531/495 6532/495 6533/495 6534/495 6535/495 6536/495 6537/495 6538/495 6539/495 6540/495 6541/495 6542/495 6543/495 6544/495 6545/495 6546/495 6547/495 6548/495 6549/495 6550/495 6551/495 6552/495 6553/495 6554/495 6555/495 6556/495 6557/495 6558/495 6559/495 6560/495 6561/495 6562/495 6563/495 6564/495 6565/495 6566/495 6567/495 6568/495 6569/495 6570/495 6571/495 6572/495 6573/495 6574/495 6575/495 6576/495 6577/495 6578/495 6579/495 6580/495 6581/495 6582/495 6583/495 6584/495 6585/495 6586/495 6587/495 6588/495 6589/495 6590/495 6591/495 6592/495 6593/495 6594/495 6595/495 6596/495 6597/495 6598/495 6599/495 6600/495 6601/495 6602/495 6603/495 6604/495 6605/495 6606/495 6607/495 6608/495 6609/495 6610/495 6611/495 6612/495 6613/495 6614/495 6615/495 6616/495 6617/495 6618/495 6619/495 6620/495 6621/495 6622/495 6623/495 6624/495 6625/495 6626/495 6627/495 6628/495 6629/495 6630/495 6631/495 6632/495 6633/495 6634/495 6635/495 6636/495 6637/495 6638/495 6639/495 6640/495 6641/495 6642/495 6643/495 6644/495 6645/495 6646/495 6647/495 6648/495 6649/495 6650/495 6651/495 6652/495 6653/495 6654/495 6655/495 6656/495 6657/495 6658/495 6659/495 6660/495 6661/495 6662/495 6663/495 6664/495 6665/495 6666/495 6667/495 6668/495 6669/495 6670/495 6671/495 6672/495 6673/495 6674/495 6675/495 6676/495 6677/495 6678/495 6679/495 6680/495 6681/495 6682/495 6683/495 6684/495 6685/495 6686/495 6687/495 6688/495 6689/495 6690/495 6691/495 6692/495 6693/495 6694/495 6695/495 6696/495 6697/495 6698/495 6699/495 6700/495 6701/495 6702/495 6703/495 6704/495 6705/495 6706/495 6707/495 6708/495 6709/495 6710/495 6711/495 6712/495 6713/495 6714/495 6715/495 6716/495 6717/495 6718/495 6719/495 6720/495 6721/495 6722/495 6723/495 6724/495 6725/495 6726/495 6727/495 6728/495 6729/495 6730/495 6731/495 6732/495 6733/495 6734/495 6735/495 6736/495 6737/495 6738/495 6739/495 6740/495 6741/495 6742/495 6743/495 6744/495 6745/495 6746/495 6747/495 6748/495 6749/495 6750/495 6751/495 6752/495 6753/495 6754/495 6755/495 6756/495 6757/495 6758/495 6759/495 6760/495 6761/495 6762/495 6763/495 6764/495 6765/495 6766/495 6767/495 6768/495 6769/495 6770/495 6771/495 6772/495 6773/495 6774/495 6775/495 6776/495 6777/495 6778/495 6779/495 6780/495 6781/495 6782/495 6783/495 6784/495 6785/495 6786/495 6787/495 6788/495 6789/495 6790/495 6791/495 6792/495 6793/495 6794/495 6795/495 6796/495 6797/495 6798/495 6799/495 6800/495 6801/495 6802/495 6803/495 6804/495 6805/495 6806/495 6807/495 6808/495 6809/495 6810/495 6811/495 6812/495 6813/495 6814/495 6815/495 6816/495 6817/495 6818/495 6819/495 6820/495 6821/495 6822/495 6823/495 6824/495 6825/495 6826/495 6827/495 6828/495 6829/495 6830/495 6831/495 6832/495 6833/495 6834/495 6835/495 6836/495 6837/495 6838/495 6839/495 6840/495 6841/495 6842/495 6843/495 6844/495 6845/495 6846/495 6847/495 6848/495 6849/495 6850/495 6851/495 6852/495 6853/495 6854

2 BEDROOM APARTMENTS & PENTHOUSE

address

IN HISTORIC BERNHAMSTED

Eighty percent of these spacious two bedroom apartments and penthouses with an adjoining lift have now been sold at this pre-arranged address in sought after Bernhamsted, built to Fairclough Homes' renowned high standards and with excellent road and rail links. Discovering how these homes closely show business interest in the development resulting in six early sales. Make sure you get the property of your choice and visit the sales office soon.

80% SOLD

Existing house to sell? Ask about our Full Value Post Exchange scheme. For advanced details call:

Tel: 01442 873999 (24 hours)
Prices from £189,950 - £199,950

Fairclough Homes

The photograph illustrates a typical Fairclough Homes' interior

THE CHURCHILL, BERNHAMSTED, HERTFORDSHIRE

FOR DETAILS OF OTHER FAIRCLOUGH HOMES' DEVELOPMENTS PHONE 01922 463670 (24 HRS)

'EXCELLENT VALUE LOFTS'



CANAL SIDE VIEWS £130,000 - £200,000
1930'S PRINTERWORKS TWO BED FITTED LOFTS
ROYLE WENLOCK ROAD ISLINGTON N1
CORNELL & CO. 225-226 NEWFORD SALVO CHURCH RD. 25H 1012

Westbury

In a sought after location in Somerset, on the outskirts of

Taunton

we have just two 5 bedroom detached homes remaining, both with family room, 3 bedrooms, utility, dining, entrance hall, double garage & superlative specification throughout. Prices from £229,990. Part exchange available

Tel (01823) 351924 for details

*Available on subject photo subject to status, home & conditions. A typical Westbury 5 bedroom detached home

RETIREMENT HOMES

Change your view of retirement

CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS

CAMBRIDGE
Glen, £190,000 - £205,000
NA CUSSEY
Tutnall, £159,000 - £175,000
HAMPSHIRE
Goodworth Clatford, £195,000 - £205,000
SURREY
St. Catherine, £215,000 - £235,000
WILTSHIRE
Dorchester, £169,000 - £205,000
WILTSHIRE
Maidenhead, £200,000 - £235,000
Score in Alderbury

At English Courtyard, our view of retirement housing is different. Spacious houses and flats, on-site services and beautiful grounds for you to enjoy, all make a difference.

Freephone 0800 220 858 quoting ref NJ6 or visit our website www.englishcourtyard.co.uk

English Courtyard

COUNTRY RENTALS

SPAIN

Spain. List of 2200 properties for sale. Tel: 0034 91 476747

PORTUGAL

THE WESTERN ALGARVE
PARQUE DA FLORESTA

Three Cooks, Chefs, Waiters, Bar, Heated Pool, Complex, Bars, Restaurants and Club House

LUXURY VILLAS WITH POOLS FROM £235,000
TOWN HOUSES FROM £115,000
AND FOUR-OWNERSHIP FROM £39,000

Situated in the heart of the unspoilt Western Algarve, Parque da Floresta offers beautiful panoramic views across rolling countryside to the sea. Relax in the friendly atmosphere of local bars and restaurants and enjoy mile after mile of sandy beaches.

Luxury Villas and Town Houses in the Western Algarve

A quality development from Viza

St James Park. The Show Home Launch




St James Park, Long Ditton, Surrey

For your invitation to the preview (30th January to 3rd February) and the launch (6th and 7th February) of our six elegant show homes please call 0181 390 7766.

- A fine selection of detached houses, apartments and townhouses.
- 5 acres of breathtaking landscaped gardens.
- Suburban to Waterloo just 18 minutes by train (fast service).
- Prices from £140,000 to £650,000.

Sales and marketing suite
0181 390 7766

HAMPSTON'S **ST JAMES HOMES**
DEVELOPING EXCELLENCE



Chelsea Gate

London SW1

Elegant living - Quality lifestyle from £375,000

- State of the art skirting heating
- Fully integrated kitchens with stainless steel appliances
- CCTV surveillance system
- Fully tiled bathrooms

Show Apartments open 11am - 6pm daily
On-site parking available

Telephone 0171 730 0430
Facsimile 0171 823 4253

REGALIAN

the new

CANARY RIVERSIDE

it's a whole new lifestyle

Jet set

- 322 Luxury Apartments beside the River
- Superb Residents' Services
- 24hr Security
- Secure Car Parking
- Health Club and Spa
- 20 metre Swimming Pool overlooking the River
- Tennis Court
- Landscaped Gardens
- Four Seasons Hotel, Canary Wharf
- Restaurants
- Shopping available at Canary Wharf
- Prices from £210,000

Show apartments open weekdays 10am - 6pm, weekends 11am - 5pm
e-mail: canaryr@hpluk.com • website: www.canaryriverside.co.uk • 0171 512 9393

5000 من الاموال

1/2

10/10/99

Carl Evans on a promising point-to-point trainer

Dalton making rapid strides through ranks

Strike-rates have become a fashionable assessment of a trainer's worth, which makes the winners-to-runners ratio of point-to-point trainer Heather Dalton worth noting.

Mrs Dalton, based near Telford, in Shropshire, saddled 22 winners from 33 runners last season and also recorded five seconds, two thirds and two fourths. That is a strike-rate to be proud of in any sport at any grade and there are few easy races at present in the competitive business of point-to-pointing.

Little wonder people are comparing Dalton to her friend, Venetia Williams. Some well-known owners have taken note and have placed their young stock under her care. John Hales, forever to be associated with One Man, has sent her a five-year-old half-brother to the famous grey, while Alan Brazier and bloodstock agent David Minton are two others who have enjoyed success under Rules and now patronise her yard.

They also gain in having a champion to partner their horses in races — Dalton's success helped her husband, Andrew, become joint-national champion last season with 33 wins, a figure matched by Herfordshire's Julian Friedland.

This time last year Mrs Dalton, 32, was about to embark on her third season as a five-year-old and had 11 horses under her care. Now her string numbers 24, expectations are high and numerous young horses are undergoing a course in excellence at an academy where their mental attitude is considered as important as fitness.

"We are careful not to run horses when they are not right," Dalton said, while reflecting on her success. "We get a lot worked out before we get anywhere near the race-course."

Comparisons with Miss Williams do not faze her — they both rode as amateurs and worked together for former trainer John Edwards.

"We don't get much time to chat, but I phone her when she has a winner and I admire



Dalton with Shoon Wind, ridden by her husband, Andrew, at their Shropshire farm

what she has achieved," Dalton said. She knows many people expect her to be taking on her friend before long, but said: "I have no plans yet to train under Rules, but I don't say it will never happen."

Attention to detail and a near paranoid search for the best in each horse drives her forward, helped by her husband and his sister, Lorna, whose unofficial role as assistant trainer is vital. They spearhead a yard where horses get the best available.

Rugs look as though they have just been unwrapped, tack shines and stables sparkle — not surprising since

many have just been built. Demand for a place at the yard is so great that she has to get staff, but she copes by working late into the night, juggling her role as mum to a three-year-old daughter with being mistress to a yard of mainly young horses. Their good manners under saddle are a notable aspect of this tuition.

"We do have a lot of young horses and they are susceptible to all sorts of problems, but I like training them, bringing them through and teaching them to use themselves properly," she said. "We spend time putting them through their paces on the flat so they develop and use their bodies."

Solita, an ex-chaser who won six times for the yard last season and has become an ambassador for his trainer, is fit and ready to run again while the evergreen Shoon Wind, now 16, is sleek in coat and looking half his age.

At the other end of the age range, watch out for the five-year-olds, Azante and Atoski, this season, while Oh So Droll, O'Flaherty's and Garrison King are others to note. Point-to-pointing has given National Hunt racing a stream of talent recently, mostly in the form of young jockeys and horses, but Mrs Dalton could one day emerge as a formidable trainer.

Fracture threatens Princeful's career

JENNY PITMAN was yesterday only "hoping" that her high-class staying hider, Princeful, will be able to race again. X-rays show that he fractured a pedal-bone in his left hind leg when brought down on his first run over fences at Doncaster on Monday.

The trainer, who initially thought the gelding had sprained a joint, said Princeful had "a comfortable night" but added: "The prognosis for a return to racing, while we are hopeful, must be guarded."

A fractured pedal-bone is a potentially career-ending injury and caused the retirement of three-time Gold Cup winner Arkle in 1968.

Pitman had high hopes that Princeful would be able to win the millennium Gold Cup, and had even entered him for this year's race before he had jumped a fence in public.

Princeful won the Boursprent Stayers' Hurdle at the Cheltenham Festival in 1998 and gained another grade one win

after a prolonged duel with Deano's Beeno, in the Sturmin Long Walk Hurdle at Ascot last month.

Richard Dunwoody, who rode Princeful, aggravated an old neck injury when the pair were brought down. The former champion jockey was forced onto the sidelines for ten weeks with the same injury last summer. However, after receiving treatment yesterday he plans to ride out tomorrow before returning to race-riding at Ascot on Friday.

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Lingfield Park

Going: Standard
12.50 (9), 1. Another Nightmares (T. Williams, 5-1), 2. Tachycardia (16-1), 3. White Dove (11-1), 4. Spirit (11-1), 5. Spirit (11-1), 6. Spirit (11-1), 7. Spirit (11-1), 8. Spirit (11-1), 9. Spirit (11-1), 10. Spirit (11-1), 11. Spirit (11-1), 12. Spirit (11-1), 13. Spirit (11-1), 14. Spirit (11-1), 15. Spirit (11-1), 16. Spirit (11-1), 17. Spirit (11-1), 18. Spirit (11-1), 19. Spirit (11-1), 20. Spirit (11-1), 21. Spirit (11-1), 22. Spirit (11-1), 23. Spirit (11-1), 24. Spirit (11-1), 25. Spirit (11-1), 26. Spirit (11-1), 27. Spirit (11-1), 28. Spirit (11-1), 29. Spirit (11-1), 30. Spirit (11-1), 31. Spirit (11-1), 32. Spirit (11-1), 33. Spirit (11-1), 34. Spirit (11-1), 35. Spirit (11-1), 36. Spirit (11-1), 37. Spirit (11-1), 38. Spirit (11-1), 39. Spirit (11-1), 40. Spirit (11-1), 41. Spirit (11-1), 42. Spirit (11-1), 43. Spirit (11-1), 44. Spirit (11-1), 45. Spirit (11-1), 46. Spirit (11-1), 47. Spirit (11-1), 48. Spirit (11-1), 49. Spirit (11-1), 50. Spirit (11-1), 51. Spirit (11-1), 52. Spirit (11-1), 53. Spirit (11-1), 54. Spirit (11-1), 55. Spirit (11-1), 56. Spirit (11-1), 57. Spirit (11-1), 58. Spirit (11-1), 59. Spirit (11-1), 60. Spirit (11-1), 61. Spirit (11-1), 62. Spirit (11-1), 63. Spirit (11-1), 64. Spirit (11-1), 65. Spirit (11-1), 66. Spirit (11-1), 67. Spirit (11-1), 68. Spirit (11-1), 69. Spirit (11-1), 70. Spirit (11-1), 71. Spirit (11-1), 72. Spirit (11-1), 73. Spirit (11-1), 74. Spirit (11-1), 75. Spirit (11-1), 76. Spirit (11-1), 77. Spirit (11-1), 78. Spirit (11-1), 79. Spirit (11-1), 80. Spirit (11-1), 81. Spirit (11-1), 82. Spirit (11-1), 83. Spirit (11-1), 84. Spirit (11-1), 85. Spirit (11-1), 86. Spirit (11-1), 87. Spirit (11-1), 88. Spirit (11-1), 89. Spirit (11-1), 90. Spirit (11-1), 91. Spirit (11-1), 92. Spirit (11-1), 93. Spirit (11-1), 94. Spirit (11-1), 95. Spirit (11-1), 96. Spirit (11-1), 97. Spirit (11-1), 98. Spirit (11-1), 99. Spirit (11-1), 100. Spirit (11-1), 101. Spirit (11-1), 102. Spirit (11-1), 103. Spirit (11-1), 104. Spirit (11-1), 105. Spirit (11-1), 106. Spirit (11-1), 107. Spirit (11-1), 108. Spirit (11-1), 109. Spirit (11-1), 110. Spirit (11-1), 111. Spirit (11-1), 112. Spirit (11-1), 113. Spirit (11-1), 114. Spirit (11-1), 115. Spirit (11-1), 116. Spirit (11-1), 117. Spirit (11-1), 118. Spirit (11-1), 119. Spirit (11-1), 120. Spirit (11-1), 121. Spirit (11-1), 122. Spirit (11-1), 123. Spirit (11-1), 124. Spirit (11-1), 125. Spirit (11-1), 126. Spirit (11-1), 127. Spirit (11-1), 128. Spirit (11-1), 129. Spirit (11-1), 130. Spirit (11-1), 131. Spirit (11-1), 132. Spirit (11-1), 133. Spirit (11-1), 134. Spirit (11-1), 135. Spirit (11-1), 136. Spirit (11-1), 137. Spirit (11-1), 138. Spirit (11-1), 139. Spirit (11-1), 140. Spirit (11-1), 141. Spirit (11-1), 142. Spirit (11-1), 143. Spirit (11-1), 144. Spirit (11-1), 145. Spirit (11-1), 146. Spirit (11-1), 147. Spirit (11-1), 148. Spirit (11-1), 149. Spirit (11-1), 150. Spirit (11-1), 151. Spirit (11-1), 152. Spirit (11-1), 153. Spirit (11-1), 154. Spirit (11-1), 155. Spirit (11-1), 156. Spirit (11-1), 157. Spirit (11-1), 158. Spirit (11-1), 159. Spirit (11-1), 160. Spirit (11-1), 161. Spirit (11-1), 162. Spirit (11-1), 163. Spirit (11-1), 164. Spirit (11-1), 165. Spirit (11-1), 166. Spirit (11-1), 167. Spirit (11-1), 168. Spirit (11-1), 169. Spirit (11-1), 170. Spirit (11-1), 171. Spirit (11-1), 172. Spirit (11-1), 173. Spirit (11-1), 174. Spirit (11-1), 175. Spirit (11-1), 176. Spirit (11-1), 177. Spirit (11-1), 178. Spirit (11-1), 179. Spirit (11-1), 180. Spirit (11-1), 181. Spirit (11-1), 182. Spirit (11-1), 183. Spirit (11-1), 184. Spirit (11-1), 185. Spirit (11-1), 186. Spirit (11-1), 187. Spirit (11-1), 188. Spirit (11-1), 189. Spirit (11-1), 190. Spirit (11-1), 191. Spirit (11-1), 192. Spirit (11-1), 193. Spirit (11-1), 194. Spirit (11-1), 195. Spirit (11-1), 196. Spirit (11-1), 197. Spirit (11-1), 198. Spirit (11-1), 199. Spirit (11-1), 200. Spirit (11-1), 201. Spirit (11-1), 202. Spirit (11-1), 203. Spirit (11-1), 204. Spirit (11-1), 205. Spirit (11-1), 206. Spirit (11-1), 207. Spirit (11-1), 208. Spirit (11-1), 209. Spirit (11-1), 210. Spirit (11-1), 211. Spirit (11-1), 212. Spirit (11-1), 213. Spirit (11-1), 214. Spirit (11-1), 215. Spirit (11-1), 216. Spirit (11-1), 217. Spirit (11-1), 218. Spirit (11-1), 219. Spirit (11-1), 220. Spirit (11-1), 221. Spirit (11-1), 222. Spirit (11-1), 223. Spirit (11-1), 224. Spirit (11-1), 225. Spirit (11-1), 226. Spirit (11-1), 227. Spirit (11-1), 228. Spirit (11-1), 229. Spirit (11-1), 230. Spirit (11-1), 231. Spirit (11-1), 232. Spirit (11-1), 233. Spirit (11-1), 234. Spirit (11-1), 235. Spirit (11-1), 236. Spirit (11-1), 237. Spirit (11-1), 238. Spirit (11-1), 239. Spirit (11-1), 240. Spirit (11-1), 241. Spirit (11-1), 242. Spirit (11-1), 243. Spirit (11-1), 244. Spirit (11-1), 245. Spirit (11-1), 246. Spirit (11-1), 247. Spirit (11-1), 248. Spirit (11-1), 249. Spirit (11-1), 250. Spirit (11-1), 251. Spirit (11-1), 252. Spirit (11-1), 253. Spirit (11-1), 254. Spirit (11-1), 255. Spirit (11-1), 256. Spirit (11-1), 257. Spirit (11-1), 258. Spirit (11-1), 259. Spirit (11-1), 260. Spirit (11-1), 261. Spirit (11-1), 262. Spirit (11-1), 263. Spirit (11-1), 264. Spirit (11-1), 265. Spirit (11-1), 266. Spirit (11-1), 267. Spirit (11-1), 268. Spirit (11-1), 269. Spirit (11-1), 270. Spirit (11-1), 271. Spirit (11-1), 272. Spirit (11-1), 273. Spirit (11-1), 274. Spirit (11-1), 275. Spirit (11-1), 276. Spirit (11-1), 277. Spirit (11-1), 278. Spirit (11-1), 279. Spirit (11-1), 280. Spirit (11-1), 281. Spirit (11-1), 282. Spirit (11-1), 283. Spirit (11-1), 284. Spirit (11-1), 285. Spirit (11-1), 286. Spirit (11-1), 287. Spirit (11-1), 288. Spirit (11-1), 289. Spirit (11-1), 290. Spirit (11-1), 291. Spirit (11-1), 292. Spirit (11-1), 293. Spirit (11-1), 294. Spirit (11-1), 295. Spirit (11-1), 296. Spirit (11-1), 297. Spirit (11-1), 298. Spirit (11-1), 299. Spirit (11-1), 300. Spirit (11-1), 301. Spirit (11-1), 302. Spirit (11-1), 303. Spirit (11-1), 304. Spirit (11-1), 305. Spirit (11-1), 306. Spirit (11-1), 307. Spirit (11-1), 308. Spirit (11-1), 309. Spirit (11-1), 310. Spirit (11-1), 311. Spirit (11-1), 312. Spirit (11-1), 313. Spirit (11-1), 314. Spirit (11-1), 315. Spirit (11-1), 316. Spirit (11-1), 317. Spirit (11-1), 318. Spirit (11-1), 319. Spirit (11-1), 320. Spirit (11-1), 321. Spirit (11-1), 322. Spirit (11-1), 323. Spirit (11-1), 324. Spirit (11-1), 325. Spirit (11-1), 326. Spirit (11-1), 327. Spirit (11-1), 328. Spirit (11-1), 329. Spirit (11-1), 330. Spirit (11-1), 331. Spirit (11-1), 332. Spirit (11-1), 333. Spirit (11-1), 334. Spirit (11-1), 335. Spirit (11-1), 336. Spirit (11-1), 337. Spirit (11-1), 338. Spirit (11-1), 339. Spirit (11-1), 340. Spirit (11-1), 341. Spirit (11-1), 342. Spirit (11-1), 343. Spirit (11-1), 344. Spirit (11-1), 345. Spirit (11-1), 346. Spirit (11-1), 347. Spirit (11-1), 348. Spirit (11-1), 349. Spirit (11-1), 350. Spirit (11-1), 351. Spirit (11-1), 352. Spirit (11-1), 353. Spirit (11-1), 354. Spirit (11-1), 355. Spirit (11-1), 356. Spirit (11-1), 357. Spirit (11-1), 358. Spirit (11-1), 359. Spirit (11-1), 360. Spirit (11-1), 361. Spirit (11-1), 362. Spirit (11-1), 363. Spirit (11-1), 364. Spirit (11-1), 365. Spirit (11-1), 366. Spirit (11-1), 367. Spirit (11-1), 368. Spirit (11-1), 369. Spirit (11-1), 370. Spirit (11-1), 371. Spirit (11-1), 372. Spirit (11-1), 373. Spirit (11-1), 374. Spirit (11-1), 375. Spirit (11-1), 376. Spirit (11-1), 377. Spirit (11-1), 378. Spirit (11-1), 379. Spirit (11-1), 380. Spirit (11-1), 381. Spirit (11-1), 382. Spirit (11-1), 383. Spirit (11-1), 384. Spirit (11-1), 385. Spirit (11-1), 386. Spirit (11-1), 387. Spirit (11-1), 388. Spirit (11-1), 389. Spirit (11-1), 390. Spirit (11-1), 391. Spirit (11-1), 392. Spirit (11-1), 393. Spirit (11-1), 394. Spirit (11-1), 395. Spirit (11-1), 396. Spirit (11-1), 397. Spirit (11-1), 398. Spirit (11-1), 399. Spirit (11-1), 400. Spirit (11-1), 401. Spirit (11-1), 402. Spirit (11-1), 403. Spirit (11-1), 404. Spirit (11-1), 405. Spirit (11-1), 406. Spirit (11-1), 407. Spirit (11-1), 408. Spirit (11-1), 409. Spirit (11-1), 410. Spirit (11-1), 411. Spirit (11-1), 412. Spirit (11-1), 413. Spirit (11-1), 414. Spirit (11-1), 415. Spirit (11-1), 416. Spirit (11-1), 417. Spirit (11-1), 418. Spirit (11-1), 419. Spirit (11-1), 420. Spirit (11-1), 421. Spirit (11-1), 422. Spirit (11-1), 423. Spirit (11-1), 424. Spirit (11-1), 425. Spirit (11-1), 426. Spirit (11-1), 427. Spirit (11-1), 428. Spirit (11-1), 429. Spirit (11-1), 430. Spirit (11-1), 431. Spirit (11-1), 432. Spirit (11-1), 433. Spirit (11-1), 434. Spirit (11-1), 435. Spirit (11-1), 436. Spirit (11-1), 437. Spirit (11-1), 438. Spirit (11-1), 439. Spirit (11-1), 440. Spirit (11-1), 441. Spirit (11-1), 442. Spirit (11-1), 443. Spirit (11-1), 444. Spirit (11-1), 445. Spirit (11-1), 446. Spirit (11-1), 447. Spirit (11-1), 448. Spirit (11-1), 449. Spirit (11-1), 450. Spirit (11-1), 451. Spirit (11-1), 452. Spirit (11-1), 453. Spirit (11-1), 454. Spirit (11-1), 455. Spirit (11-1), 456. Spirit (11-1), 457. Spirit (11-1), 458. Spirit (11-1), 459. Spirit (11-1), 460. Spirit (11-1), 461. Spirit (11-1), 462. Spirit (11-1), 463. Spirit (11-1), 464. Spirit (11-1), 465. Spirit (11-1), 466. Spirit (11-1), 467. Spirit (11-1), 468. Spirit (11-1), 469. Spirit (11-1), 470. Spirit (11-1), 471. Spirit (11-1), 472. Spirit (11-1), 473. Spirit (11-1), 474. Spirit (11-1), 475. Spirit (11-1), 476. Spirit (11-1), 477. Spirit (11-1), 478. Spirit (11-1), 479. Spirit (11-1), 480. Spirit (11-1), 481. Spirit (11-1), 482. Spirit (11-1), 483. Spirit (11-1), 484. Spirit (11-1), 485. Spirit (11-1), 486. Spirit (11-1), 487. Spirit (11-1), 488. Spirit (11-1), 489. Spirit (11-1), 490. Spirit (11-1), 491. Spirit (11-1), 492. Spirit (11-1), 493. Spirit (11-1), 494. Spirit (11-1), 495. Spirit (11-1), 496. Spirit (11-1), 497. Spirit (11-1), 498. Spirit (11-1), 499. Spirit (11-1), 500. Spirit (11-1), 501. Spirit (11-1), 502. Spirit (11-1), 503. Spirit (11-1), 504. Spirit (11-1), 505. Spirit (11-1), 506. Spirit (11-1), 507. Spirit (11-1), 508. Spirit (11-1), 509. Spirit (11-1), 510. Spirit (11-1), 511. Spirit (11-1), 512. Spirit (11-1), 513. Spirit (11-1), 514. Spirit (11-1), 515. Spirit (11-1), 516. Spirit (11-1), 517. Spirit (11-1), 518. Spirit (11-1), 519. Spirit (11-1), 520. Spirit (11-1), 521. Spirit (11-1), 522. Spirit (11-1), 523. Spirit (11-1), 524. Spirit (11-1), 525. Spirit (11-1), 526. Spirit (11-1), 527. Spirit (11-1), 528. Spirit (11-1), 529. Spirit (11-1), 530. Spirit (11-1), 531. Spirit (11-1), 532. Spirit (11-1), 533. Spirit (11-1), 534. Spirit (11-1), 535. Spirit (11-1), 536. Spirit (11-1), 537. Spirit (11-1), 538. Spirit (11-1), 539. Spirit (11-1), 540. Spirit (11-1), 541. Spirit (11-1), 542. Spirit (11-1), 543. Spirit (11-1), 544. Spirit (11-1), 545. Spirit (11-1), 546. Spirit (11-1), 547. Spirit (11-1), 548. Spirit (11-1), 549. Spirit (11-1), 550. Spirit (11-1), 551. Spirit (11-1), 552. Spirit (11-1), 553. Spirit (11-1), 554. Spirit (11-1), 555. Spirit (11-1), 556. Spirit (11-1), 557. Spirit (11-1), 558. Spirit (11-1), 559. Spirit (11-1), 560. Spirit (11-1), 561. Spirit (11-1), 562. Spirit (11-1), 563. Spirit (11-1), 564. Spirit (11-1), 565. Spirit (11-1), 566. Spirit (11-1), 567. Spirit (11-1), 568. Spirit (11-1), 569. Spirit (11-1), 570. Spirit (11-1), 571. Spirit (11-1), 572. Spirit (11-1), 573. Spirit (11-1), 574. Spirit (11-1), 575. Spirit (11-1), 576. Spirit (11-1), 577. Spirit (11-1), 578. Spirit (11-1), 579. Spirit (11-1), 580. Spirit (11-1), 581. Spirit (11-1), 582. Spirit (11-1), 583. Spirit (11-1), 584. Spirit (11-1), 585. Spirit (11-1), 586. Spirit (11-1), 587. Spirit (11-1), 588. Spirit (11-1), 589. Spirit (11-1), 590. Spirit (11-1), 591. Spirit (11-1), 592. Spirit (11-1), 593. Spirit (11-1), 594. Spirit (11-1), 595. Spirit (11-1), 596. Spirit (11-1), 597. Spirit (11-1), 598. Spirit (11-1), 599. Spirit (11-1), 600. Spirit (11-1), 601. Spirit (11-1), 602. Spirit (11-1), 603. Spirit (11-1), 604. Spirit (11-1), 605. Spirit (11-1), 606. Spirit (11-1), 607. Spirit (11-1), 608. Spirit (11-1), 609. Spirit (11-1), 610. Spirit (11-1), 611. Spirit (11-1), 612. Spirit (11-1), 613. Spirit (11-1), 614. Spirit (11-1), 615. Spirit (11-1), 616. Spirit (11-1), 617. Spirit (11-1), 618. Spirit (11-1), 619. Spirit (11-1), 620. Spirit (11-1), 621. Spirit (11-1), 622. Spirit (11-1), 623. Spirit (11-1), 624. Spirit (11-1), 625. Spirit (11-1), 626. Spirit (11-1), 627. Spirit (11-1), 628. Spirit (11-1), 629. Spirit (11-1), 630. Spirit (11-1), 631. Spirit (11-1), 632. Spirit (11-1), 633. Spirit (11-1), 634. Spirit (11-1), 635. Spirit (11-1), 636. Spirit (11-1), 637. Spirit (11-1), 638. Spirit (11-1), 639. Spirit (11-1), 640. Spirit (11-1), 641. Spirit (11-1), 642. Spirit (11-1), 643. Spirit (11-1), 644. Spirit (11-1), 645. Spirit (11-1), 646. Spirit (11-1), 647. Spirit (11-1), 648. Spirit (11-1), 649. Spirit (11-1), 650. Spirit (11-1), 651. Spirit (11-1), 652. Spirit (11-1), 653. Spirit (11-1), 654. Spirit (11-1), 655. Spirit (11-1), 656. Spirit (11-1), 657. Spirit (11-1), 658. Spirit (11-1), 659. Spirit (11-1), 660. Spirit (11-1), 661. Spirit (11-1), 662. Spirit (11-1), 663. Spirit (11-1), 664. Spirit (11-1), 665. Spirit (11-1), 666. Spirit (11-1), 667. Spirit (11-1), 668. Spirit (11-1), 669. Spirit (11-1), 670. Spirit (11-1), 671. Spirit (11-1), 672. Spirit (11-1), 673. Spirit (11-1), 674. Spirit (11-1), 675. Spirit (11-1), 676. Spirit (11-1), 677. Spirit (11-1), 678. Spirit (11-1), 679. Spirit (11-1), 680. Spirit (11-1), 681. Spirit (11-1), 682. Spirit (11-1), 683. Spirit (11-1), 684. Spirit (11-1), 685. Spirit (11-1), 686. Spirit (11-1), 687. Spirit (11-1), 688. Spirit (11-1), 689. Spirit (11-1), 690. Spirit (11-1), 691. Spirit (11-1), 692. Spirit (11-1), 693. Spirit (11-1), 694. Spirit (11-1), 695. Spirit (11-1), 696. Spirit (11-1), 697. Spirit (11-1), 698. Spirit (11-1), 699. Spirit (11-1), 700. Spirit (11-1), 701. Spirit (11-1), 702. Spirit (11-1), 703. Spirit (11-1), 704. Spirit (11-1), 705. Spirit (11-1), 706. Spirit (11-1), 707. Spirit (11-1), 708. Spirit (11-1), 709. Spirit (11-1), 710. Spirit (11-1), 711. Spirit (11-1), 712. Spirit (11-1), 713. Spirit (11-1), 714. Spirit (11-1), 715. Spirit (11-1), 716. Spirit (11-1), 717. Spirit (11-1), 718. Spirit (11-1), 719. Spirit (11-1), 720. Spirit (11-1), 721. Spirit (11-1), 722. Spirit (11-1), 723. Spirit (11-1), 724. Spirit (11-1), 725. Spirit (11-1), 726. Spirit (11-1), 727. Spirit (11-1), 728. Spirit (11-1), 729. Spirit (11-1), 730. Spirit (11-1), 731. Spirit (11-1), 732. Spirit (11-1), 733. Spirit (11-1), 734. Spirit (11-1), 735. Spirit (11-1), 736. Spirit (11-1), 737. Spirit (11-1), 738. Spirit (11-1), 739. Spirit (11-1), 740. Spirit (11-1), 741. Spirit (11-1), 742. Spirit (11-1), 743. Spirit (11-1), 744. Spirit (11-1), 745. Spirit (11-1), 746. Spirit (11-1), 747. Spirit (11-1), 748. Spirit (11-1), 749. Spirit (11-1), 750. Spirit (11-1), 751. Spirit (11-1), 752. Spirit (11-1), 753. Spirit (11-1), 754. Spirit (11-1), 755. Spirit (11-1), 756. Spirit (11-1), 757. Spirit (11-1), 758. Spirit (11-1), 759. Spirit (11-1), 760. Spirit (11-1), 761. Spirit (11-1), 762. Spirit (11-1), 763. Spirit (11-1), 764. Spirit (11-1), 765. Spirit (11-1), 766. Spirit (11-1), 767. Spirit (11-1), 768. Spirit (11-1), 769. Spirit (11-1), 770. Spirit (11-1), 771. Spirit (11-1), 772. Spirit (11-1), 773. Spirit (11-1), 774. Spirit (11-1), 775. Spirit (11-1), 776. Spirit (11-1), 777. Spirit (11-1), 778. Spirit (11-1), 779. Spirit (11-1), 780. Spirit (11-1), 781. Spirit (11-1), 782. Spirit (11-1), 783. Spirit (11-1), 784. Spirit (11-1), 785. Spirit (11-1), 786. Spirit (11-1), 787. Spirit (11-1), 788. Spirit (11-1), 789. Spirit (11-1), 790. Spirit (11-1), 791. Spirit (11-1), 792. Spirit (11-1), 793. Spirit (11-1), 794. Spirit (11-1), 795. Spirit (11-1), 796. Spirit (11-1), 797. Spirit (11-1), 798. Spirit (11-1), 799. Spirit (11-1), 800. Spirit (11-1), 801. Spirit (11-1), 802. Spirit (11-1), 803. Spirit (11-1), 804. Spirit (11-1), 805. Spirit (11-1), 806. Spirit (11-1), 807. Spirit (11-1), 808. Spirit (11-1), 809. Spirit (11-1), 810. Spirit (11-1), 811. Spirit (11-1), 812. Spirit (11-1), 813. Spirit (11-1), 814. Spirit (11-1), 815. Spirit (11-1), 816. Spirit (11-1), 817. Spirit (11-1), 818. Spirit (11-1), 819. Spirit (11-1), 820. Spirit (11-1), 821. Spirit (11-1), 822. Spirit (11-1), 823. Spirit (11-1), 824. Spirit (11-1), 825. Spirit (11-1), 826. Spirit (11-1), 827. Spirit (11-1), 828. Spirit (11-1), 829. Spirit (11-1), 830. Spirit (11-1), 831. Spirit (11-1), 832. Spirit (11-1), 833. Spirit (11-1), 834. Spirit (11-1), 835. Spirit (11-1), 836. Spirit (11-1), 837. Spirit (11-1), 838. Spirit (11-1), 839. Spirit (11-1), 840. Spirit (11-1), 841. Spirit (11-1), 842. Spirit (11-1), 843. Spirit (11-1), 844. Spirit (11-1), 845. Spirit (11-1), 846. Spirit (11-1), 847

FOOTBALL

Redknapp wants Lee as part of reshuffle

BY GEORGE CAULKIN AND STEPHEN WOOD

HARRY REDKNAPP, the West Ham United manager, last night signalled his intention to reinvest swiftly a significant slice of the £7.5 million that the club received from the sale of John Harrison to Wimbledon last week by making an inquiry about Rob Lee, Newcastle United's England international.

Having taken Marco Negri on loan from Rangers until the end of the season, a midfield player and a right back remain Redknapp's priorities. Though Roud Gullit, the Newcastle manager, identified Lee, 33 next month, as a crucial cog in his plans shortly after taking control at St James' Park, a Newcastle source said that a bid of around £2 million would be sufficient to take the player to East London.

Lee, who signed a new three-year contract only last summer, has continually maintained his desire to remain in the North East for the rest of his career, despite near-constant rumours to the contrary since his arrival from Charlton Athletic in 1992. "I have always wanted to stay at Newcastle," he said after agreeing his new deal.

A move to the club that he supported as a boy would prove a considerable pull, however, and while he knew nothing of West Ham's interest

when contacted last night, Lee retains a home close to Upton Park.

Gullit will reply to Redknapp's bid by renewing his courtship of Ryal Berkovic, West Ham's Israeli international midfielder player. Any swap arrangement would need to include a £2 million settlement in West Ham's favour, although whether Redknapp would wish to lose Berkovic after disposing of Harrison is open to question.

The FA Premier League has imposed a suspended line on Aston Villa over their refusal to pay Brighton £200,000 for Gareth Barry, their 17-year-old defender, and diverted some of Villa's television money to the Nationwide League third division club.

Villa had paid Brighton an initial £150,000, as ordered by a transfer tribunal, but then refused to hand over the £200,000 that they were told to pay when Barry made 20 appearances for the club, claiming that the youngster was overpriced and demanding that the tribunal revealed its reasons for the ruling.

The Premier League Board stepped in, gave the £200,000 to Brighton and handed Villa a suspended fine of £16,000, which will be called in if Villa do not pay up when Barry reaches other landmarks.

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, the Manchester United striker, yesterday reiterated that he finds it preferable to be a reserve at Old Trafford rather than a first-team regular elsewhere, in the light of suggestions that West Ham are preparing an approach.

Solskjaer, scorer of ten goals this season, is behind Andy Cole and Dwight Yorke in the pecking order, which could damage his Norway international future, but the £3.5 million-rated striker said: "This is too big a club to leave behind and I want to win as much as I can with United."



Lee: transfer speculation

Defender going for a song

Russell Kempson
on the warm
weekend welcome
awaiting
Watford's recruit
from Nigeria

Pre-match entertainment nowadays knows no bounds. Skydivers plummet to earth, cheerleaders strut their funky stuff and Cyril the Swan, Swansea City's manic mascot, flies in the face of authority. On Saturday, supporters of Watford will be treated to a unique event — the first public showing of the Adigbo, a traditional Nigerian dance, at an English football ground.

Before the Nationwide League first division match against West Bromwich Albion, Vicarage Road will reverberate to the sounds of Africa via the public-address system as the Adigbo group performs its ten-minute routine — barefooted, bare-chested (men only, if the weather allows) and in full national costume. Bells and drums will add to the scene.

For Ben Iroha, the Nigeria and Watford defender, the occasion holds special significance. It was arranged specifically for his benefit by Yibose, the Young Igbo Social Club, which is based in North London. Iroha, 29, was born in Uyo, a village in eastern Nigeria, of the Igbo tribe, one of the country's three largest.

"Some of our members went to the World Cup finals and really enjoyed it," Uzo Onuora, a Yibose spokesman and the sister of Ify Onuora, the Swindon Town striker, said. "When we heard that Ben had joined Watford, we wanted to do something to make him feel welcome here and honour him as a good representative of the Igbo community abroad."

The entertainment at Vicarage Road, after which Iroha will be presented with a commemorative plaque, dovetails neatly with Watford's vigorous stance against racism in the sport and Yibose's hopes for future links with the Kick Racism Out of Football Campaign. "We'd like to think Saturday can have a dual purpose," Onuora said.

Iroha, who has made five appearances in the past two World Cup finals, began his career with Flash Flamingos in Nigeria and has played for ASEC Mimosas, of Ivory Coast, Vitesse Arnhem, in Holland, San Jose Clash and Washington DC United, in the United States, and Elche, the Spanish second division club. A trial with Bristol Rovers earlier this season proved fruitless — "I don't think they could afford me," he said — before he joined Watford.



Iroha shows the skills that have brought him to Vicarage Road — and a unique reception

"It is a big honour. I hope it's not too cold for the dancers"

settled," he said, "but I miss my family so much. I have never been away from them for so long." His wife, Patsy, and children Larissa, three, and J.J., six months, will travel to England from Washington next month.

The Igbo tribe is well represented in English football, if not by birthplace then by parentage, through Efan Ekoku, of Wimbledon, Ugo Ehiogu, of Aston Villa, and Onuora and George Ndah, of Swindon. Nwankwo Kanu, Arsenal's new £4 million signing from Internazionale, will swell the group further when his work permit is processed, and Yibose has already sent a letter of welcome to Highgate, a stone's throw from its headquarters.

Iroha helped to ease Kanu, 23, through his early years at the National club in Over-

seas, where he was a first-team regular. "I gave him courage," Iroha said. "He was a young boy then but he is a man now. Saturday will bring a big honour for me and I just hope it is not too cold for the dancers. If we can win as well, it will really make my day."

Howey rises from depths of despair

BY GEORGE CAULKIN

THE realisation began to crystallise at Bradford last August. In the midst of a run in the Newcastle United reserves, Steve Howey was kicked with such force that he thought his leg was broken. It was the night before Kanny Delgishy's departure from the club, another new manager to impress, a further two weeks of the treatment table, more needles, more frustration. A fortnight without training and the muscles in his thighs — where a jigsaw of scars is the grisly token of two years ravaged by injury — were beginning to weaken.

There was another strain. Last season had been "stop-start", this was unproductive and he "couldn't picture a time when I'd be able to play two games in a row without being knocked back for a month". While packing it all in crossed his mind, that solution had been considered before, when dye was being flushed around his body to find a possible blockage in his veins, or after his unimpeachable operation.

His wife Angela, and the Newcastle medical staff, had kept his chin up then. He would continue as he was — train, injury, play, injury, down his sorrow — but what would that solve? Instead, after talks with Roud Gullit, "he's very much a hands-on manager" — Newcastle's most accomplished central defender was dispatched to Lillieshall for rehabilitation. He had suggested a spell abroad, the club mentioned an "army camp", it was a compromise.

He recalled the advice that Delgishy had once given him, about having one chance in football, and made a lifestyle decision of some import. "While never a massive drinker," Howey, 27, thought of himself as the kind of person who, "if I went into the pub, I'd have to have a drink".

At Lillieshall, he simply stopped. "I was surprised at how well I coped without it," he said. Newcastle's Christmas party — a complete with sheep's heart and Mena Kampf — was remarkable for another reason. Howey,

turned up four hours late. He was fit and he was sober. Although not teetotal, his consumption of alcohol is now "ridiculously less" and the effects have been dramatic.

Briefed to mark Duncan Ferguson, newly signed from Everton, in one of his first training sessions back from Lillieshall, Howey was named as captain for the visit of Wimbledon last November. "Not bad for a Sunderland lad," he was to chuckle later. Eight consecutive league appearances later — his most profitable sequence since the start of 1996 — he remains in the role.

Gullit described his return as akin to making a "£5 million signing". Comfortable on the ball, blessed with pace, Howey offers a calm authority rarely associated with defenders on Tyneside. Newcastle's last link to the pre-Kevin Keegan era, he admitted that he should "easily have made 300 appearances" for the club he joined 13 years ago.

Keegan initiated the switch from centre forward and he, and both his successors, touted Howey's England credentials. Howey has made four appearances, the last, three months before Euro 96, against Bulgaria. He will not breach the subject. As Delgishy once said: "His only aim should be to get on the training ground tomorrow."

Assuming he makes that journey without mishap from now until Saturday, he will play against Bradford City in the FA Cup. All he hopes for is to stay in the team, although given that he has not agreed a new contract — his present deal expires this summer — his future is uncertain.

"I'd like to stay here, no doubt about it. I don't really want to move from the North East," he said. That Liverpool, Sunderland and Arsenal are eyeing his position may seem confusing considering his injury record, but not when you see him striding into the centre circle or stretching for a clearance. Not when he answers a question, sitting in a pub, and reaches for the menu. And orders coffee.



Howey rises from depths of despair

Mabbutt calls it a day

GARY MABBUTT has been forced to retire from football after failing to recover from a serious injury. The former Tottenham Hotspur defender had spent four months in rehabilitation after surgery on a fragmented left knee and had been considering offers from other clubs after Tottenham decided against renewing his contract last summer. Those plans have now been abandoned on the advice of a specialist.

Mabbutt, 37, was found to be diabetic in his early teens and once lapsed into a coma when he missed an insulin injection. He had his cheekbone shattered in a collision with John Fashanu in 1993 and broke his leg on the opening day of the 1996-97 season. But highlights of his career, 16 years of which were spent at White Hart Lane, included a UEFA Cup winner's medal in 1984 and lifting the FA Cup as captain of Tottenham in 1991. He made 618 appearances for

BY SPORTS STAFF

Spurs, scoring 36 goals, but the injuries caught up with him.

On his retirement, Mabbutt said: "It was a hard decision to make after my 21 years — five at Bristol Rovers and 16 at Tottenham — because I have enjoyed my career immensely, but the demands and rigours that professional football



Mabbutt: serious injury

makes on the body would continue to see my knee degenerate."

The final FA Cup third-round replay is contested tonight and if the priority for Notts County is to move out of the relegation zone in the Nationwide League, second division, the Sheffield United need to win the tie at Meadow Lane to freshen up their first division campaign.

With Cardiff City visiting the victors in the fourth round on Saturday, United must fancy their prospects of making the last 16 of a competition in which they reached the semi-finals last season. Steve Bruce, the Sheffield player-manager, has resisted attempts by Everton to buy Graham Stuart, the attacking midfielder player, while his side is in the Cup.

County, who were promoted from the third division last season, are desperate for reinforcements after a run of seven defeats in their past eight matches.

Joachim enjoys life at top

BY RICHARD HOBSON

THIS time last year, Gareth Barry had yet to sign professional terms with Aston Villa. Lee Hendrie was in the reserve side and Julian Joachim moved around Villa Park under the sobriquet "Super Sub". The idea that within 12 months, this trio would underpin the Sheffield United side, the leaders of the end of the West Midlands.

Yet the challenge of Villa, rejuvenated since John Gregory succeeded Brian Little as manager and with fresh young talent in key positions, shows no signs of waning. "We are playing some great football at the moment and I believe we can stay up there," Joachim said after scoring two goals in the 3-0 win against Everton on Monday night to put them level on points with Chelsea.

Joachim's finishing on both occasions testified to a player on top of his game and must have impressed Glenn Hod-

dle, the watching England coach. His first strike was conceived and executed with speed and precision in a crowded penalty area while the second recalled Ian Wright at his most adroit. In just two touches he executed a through-pass by Hendrie and the end of the recovering defender and shot powerfully beyond Thomas Myhre.



Joachim: precision

FOR THE RECORD

BOWLS

HOPKINSON-ON-SEA: World Indoor Championships, Singles, Round 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000.

CRICKET

One-day international

New Zealand v India

CRISTOCHURCH: India won 100-0

NEW ZEALAND: New Zealand won 70-0

NEW ZEALAND: New Zealand won 70-0

NEW ZEALAND: New Zealand won 70-0

NEW ZEALAND: New Zealand won 70-0

NEW ZEALAND: New Zealand won 70-0

NEW ZEALAND: New Zealand won 70-0

NEW ZEALAND: New Zealand won 70-0

NEW ZEALAND: New Zealand won 70-0

NEW ZEALAND: New Zealand won 70-0

NEW ZEALAND: New Zealand won 70-0

NEW ZEALAND: New Zealand won 70-0

NEW ZEALAND: New Zealand won 70-0

NEW ZEALAND: New Zealand won 70-0

NEW ZEALAND: New Zealand won 70-0

NEW ZEALAND: New Zealand won 70-0

NEW ZEALAND: New Zealand won 70-0

NEW ZEALAND: New Zealand won 70-0

NEW ZEALAND: New Zealand won 70-0

NEW ZEALAND: New Zealand won 70-0

NEW ZEALAND: New Zealand won 70-0

NEW ZEALAND: New Zealand won 70-0

NEW ZEALAND: New Zealand won 70-0

NEW ZEALAND: New Zealand won 70-0

NEW ZEALAND: New Zealand won 70-0

NEW ZEALAND: New Zealand won 70-0

NEW ZEALAND: New Zealand won 70-0

NEW ZEALAND: New Zealand won 70-0

NEW ZEALAND: New Zealand won 70-0

NEW ZEALAND: New Zealand won 70-0

MARK SOUSTER

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm)		Conditions Run to Resort	Open/ Piste	Weather (5pm)	Last snow
	L	U				
Andorra						
Soldeu	80	100	Good	Open	Powder	Fine 2 17/1
Austria						
Kitzbühel	20	80	Good	Hard	Varied	Fine 1 14/1
St Anton	20	70	Good	Open	Varied	Sun -4 14/1
St Anton	30	300	Fair	Open	Varied	Sun 0 14/1
Canada						
Lake Louise	100	140	Good	Open	Powder	Fair -1 19/1
France						
Alpe d'Huez	70	180	Good	Open	Varied	Sun 3 18/1
Argentière	50	145	Good	Open	Varied	Fine -1 14/1
Flaine	90	220	Good	Open	Varied	Sun 0 14/1
La Grange	65	110	Good	Open	Heavy	Sun 3 14/1
La Tania	68	108	Good	Hard	Varied	Sun 3 14/1
Les Arcs	94	190	Fair	Warm	Crusty	Fine 4 14/1
Megève	55	140	Fair	Open	Varied	Sun -5 14/1
Méribel	50	120	Fair	Open	Crusty	Sun 3 14/1
Tignes	66	170	Good	Open	Varied	Sun -3 14/1
Val Thorens	70	130	Good	Open	Varied	Sun -3 14/1
Val d'Isère	65	150	Good	Open	Varied	Sun 1 14/1
Italy						
Cervinia	45	160	Good	Open	Varied	Fine 0 14/1
Cortina	45	80	Good	Warm	Powder	Sun 2 14/1
Mel di Campiglio	60	120	Good	Open	Crusty	Sun 6 13/1
Switzerland						
Gallo	70	70	Good	Open	Varied	Cloud -3 17/1
Switzerland						
Crans Montana	20	115	Good	Open	Varied	Sun 6 14/1
Gröden	45	130	Good	Open	Varied	Sun -10 14/1
Gröden	35	80	Good	Open	Varied	Sun 3 14/1
Moosate	35	135	Good	Open	Varied	Fine -1 14/1
St Moritz	40	80	Good	Open	Varied	Sun -2 13/1
Verbier	20	180	Hard	Joy	Varied	Sun -3 14/1
Villars	40	120	Fair	Open	Crusty	Sun -3 14/1
Zermatt	42	130	Hard	Open	Powder	Fine -2 17/1
United States						
Aspen	75	95	Good	Open	Crusty	Cloud -3 19/1

L = lower slopes, U = upper slopes

Enigmatic variations on using a pixie hood

When you hear that the odds against deciphering Germany's Enigma code during the Second World War were many times greater than the odds against winning the National Lottery, it conjures up an image of Bletchley Park, the country house near Milton Keynes, as a vast bazaar of academic, crossword, chess, and schoolboy and undergraduate, competing feverishly to yell "Louise, honey!" as soon as they cracked the latest German transmission.

Obviously it wasn't quite that weird. It was weird, Sarah Baring, who worked there, recalled in *Station X* (Channel 4), that "There was one cryptographer with red hair and a red beard and he studied Japanese in the evenings as a relief from his cryptography. But in the winter he wore a blue pixie hood on his head. A pixie hood's

the thing you put on babies' heads. And I always thought that was very strange. I never knew quite why he did it."

Gwen Watkins, a WAAF at Bletchley, remembered Joshi Cooper well. "He would walk round the lake every summer evening with a coffee cup. And when he'd finished his coffee he'd look in a demented way at the coffee cup as though wondering what to do with it and throw it straight over his shoulder into the lake. Every evening."

These geniuses, luckily, were the people on whom our lives depended. "At least half of the people there, I would have thought — outside Bletchley — absolutely mad," says Watkins, frankly.

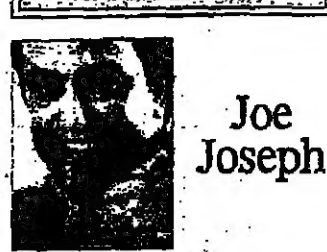
Their achievement is still breathtaking. According to Tony Sale, of the Bletchley Park Trust, "If I sent just one message on an Enigma machine today, it would still take a Super Kray computer — the fastest in the world — a year to go

through searching for that one message without supporting evidence as to what the message settings might have been."

I must have taken them quite a while to twig that it even was a code. German being a jangle of consonants at the best of times. So you can imagine what sort of people they drafted in to crack it. Arthur Levinson, one of the code-breakers, remembers: "Anthropologists, Egyptologists, paleontologists and even an occasional lawyer turned out to have the knack." Their descendants are still engaged in similar work today, only this time the Germans are on our side and the indecipherable messages concern such European Union matters as the euro and the harmonisation of European taxes.

It is quaint to see — among the riveting archive footage dug up for this four-part series — some film of

REVIEW



Joe Joseph

Second World War German code-breakers undergoing training: they are sitting on a platform deciphering Morse code while the platform is rocked like a radio horse, so as to train them to decipher Morse code under any conditions. Meanwhile their English counterparts were wearing blue pixie hoods on their heads and tossing the corks into the lake. Maybe this behaviour was deliberately or-

chestrated to wrong-foot the enemy (First German Spy: "I think this Bletchley place is the nerve centre of Britain's code-breaking operations." Second German Spy: "Have you seen what that guy over there with that baby's blue pixie hood? I'll bet you a hundred marks that this is a lunatic asylum.")

But they weren't all code-breaking geniuses. Geoffrey Tandy, a marine biologist, was among the first to be recruited. Nigel Forward, a Bletchley code-breaker, recalls how Tandy joined the team: "He was an expert in cryptograms. They're a very elementary form of biological life. And somebody said, 'Ah, cryptograms, that's what we want' and sent him to Bletchley with the slight error that they were really looking for people who were good at cryptograms." But Tandy probably survived without anybody even noticing. Compared with wearing pixie hoods and tossing corks into the lake, being

able to hold forth on the subject of elementary biological lifeforms must have seemed quite normal.

Another hard nut to crack: why are people who are stinking rich often so unhappy (obviously poor people are often even unhappier; little girl in the World (ITV) inspected the Onassis family curse of unhappiness that hangs over 13-year-old Athina — Christina's daughter, Aristotle's granddaughter — like a pigeon waiting to poop. When the young Athina said that she liked the nursery rhyme *Baa Baa Black Sheep*, Christina did the motherly thing of buying Athina her own flock of sheep to play with. Christy, the boy that lives down the lane, although she did buy several others that didn't work out. Athina is young, but already very smart. Smart enough to remark that "If I

burn the money there will be no problem. No money, no problem." Sometimes it's the simplest solutions that crack the code.

Final mystery of the evening: the Japanese. In *Great Railway Journeys* (BBC2), Fergal Keane travelled from one end of Japan to the other and detected a mood of change in the Japanese people. "By my journey's end I had a feeling that the tyranny of the group would not survive here. Japan becoming a society of individuals — now that's an exciting journey." The trouble is Japan always seems to visitors as if it is at the crossroads, that everything is about to change, that traditions are melting like an ice-cream in your hand. But they never do. When the war was over, all the Bletchley staff were reassigned to trying to fathom what makes the Japanese tick. That man with the pixie hood has been working flat out and still hasn't cracked this one.

- BBC1**
- 6.00am Business Breakfast (50372)
 - 9.00am BBC Breakfast News (1) (96001)
 - 9.45am Killyn (1) (8454649)
 - 9.45am The Vanessa Show (1) (5818339)
 - 10.00am News Weather (1) (7777933)
 - 10.00am Real Roads (1) (7831010)
 - 11.25am Can't Cook, Won't Cook (1) (7764468)
 - 11.55am News Weather (1) (1960365)
 - 12.00pm Call My Bluff (1) (76440)
 - 12.30pm Battersea Dogs' Home (25932)
 - 1.00pm One O'Clock News: Weather (1) (60448)
 - 1.30pm Regional News: Weather (1) (6478468)
 - 1.40pm Neighbours (1) (858285)
 - 2.05pm Inside (1) (741759)
 - 2.55pm Going for a Song (1) (8336914)
 - 3.20pm The Weather Show (1) (2767865)
 - 3.25pm Children's BBC: Playdays (2520894)
 - 3.45pm Little Monsters (1) (852885)
 - 3.50pm Chockyvision (1) (852885)
 - 4.10pm See It Saw It (1) (852885)
 - 4.35pm The 19th House (1) (852885)
 - 4.50pm Newsnight (1) (852885)
 - 5.10pm Blue Peter (1) (852885)
 - 5.35pm Neighbours (1) (1) (852885)
 - 6.00pm Six O'Clock News: Weather (1) (301)
 - 6.30pm Regional News Magazine (1) (852885)



The leopard is perfectly adapted for hunting at night (7pm)

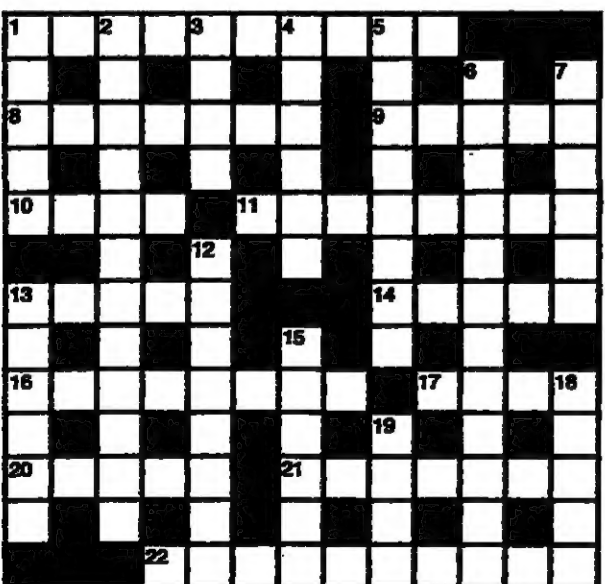
- 7.00pm Wildlife on One: Insights into the nocturnal hunting techniques of the leopard, which relies on smell and hearing to capture its prey in pitch darkness (1) (1488)
- 7.30pm Dream House: John Weir struggles to complete the grass roof (1) (827)
- 8.00pm Chilling: Business Anna Ryder Richardson brings a little Miami glamour to a Cardiff living room (1) (9378)
- 8.30pm Battersea Dogs' Home: A litter of puppies delivered by Caesarean section, are given slim chances of survival (1) (850310)
- 8.50pm National Lottery: Amazing Luck: Stories how the winners of the *Titanic* were discovered (1) (850001)
- 9.00pm Nine O'Clock News: Regional News: Weather (1) (2339)
- 9.30pm The X-Files Part One: Mulder and Scully search desperately for clues to a series of mass killings in which UFO abductions are being blamed (1) (857865)
- 10.15pm Behind the Scenes at the Billingsgate fish market (1) (180040)
- 11.10pm Last for Murder (1) (1983): A man takes a holiday with his wife, little realising she intends to make it a vacation he'll never forget. Starring Virginia Madsen and Richard Thomas. Directed by Nathaniel Guttman (1) (2535)
- 12.35pm Moving Targets: (1) (1983): A man takes a holiday with his wife, little realising she intends to make it a vacation he'll never forget. Starring Virginia Madsen and Richard Thomas. Directed by Nathaniel Guttman (1) (2535)
- 2.00pm Weather (1) (970268)
- 2.05pm BBC News 24 (74142976)

- BBC2**
- 7.00am Children's BBC: Breakfast Show: Dilly the Dinosaur (256037) 7.05am Teletubbies (2703204) 7.30am Secret Garden (1) (852885) 7.55am Really Wild Show (200778) 8.15am Really Wild Show (200778) 8.35am Really Wild Show (200778) 8.55am Really Wild Show (200778) 9.15am Really Wild Show (200778) 9.35am Really Wild Show (200778) 9.55am Really Wild Show (200778) 10.15am Really Wild Show (200778) 10.35am Really Wild Show (200778) 10.55am Really Wild Show (200778) 11.15am Really Wild Show (200778) 11.35am Really Wild Show (200778) 11.55am Really Wild Show (200778) 12.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 12.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 12.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 1.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 1.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 1.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 2.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 2.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 2.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 3.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 3.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 3.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 4.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 4.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 4.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 5.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 5.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 5.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 6.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 6.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 6.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 7.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 7.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 7.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 8.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 8.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 8.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 9.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 9.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 9.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 10.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 10.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 10.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 11.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 11.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 11.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 12.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 12.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 12.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 1.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 1.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 1.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 2.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 2.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 2.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 3.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 3.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 3.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 4.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 4.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 4.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 5.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 5.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 5.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 6.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 6.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 6.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 7.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 7.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 7.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 8.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 8.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 8.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 9.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 9.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 9.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 10.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 10.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 10.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 11.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 11.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 11.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 12.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 12.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 12.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 1.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 1.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 1.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 2.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 2.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 2.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 3.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 3.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 3.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 4.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 4.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 4.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 5.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 5.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 5.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 6.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 6.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 6.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 7.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 7.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 7.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 8.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 8.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 8.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 9.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 9.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 9.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 10.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 10.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 10.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 11.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 11.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 11.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 12.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 12.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 12.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 1.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 1.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 1.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 2.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 2.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 2.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 3.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 3.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 3.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 4.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 4.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 4.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 5.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 5.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 5.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 6.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 6.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 6.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 7.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 7.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 7.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 8.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 8.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 8.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 9.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 9.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 9.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 10.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 10.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 10.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 11.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 11.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 11.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 12.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 12.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 12.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 1.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 1.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 1.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 2.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 2.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 2.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 3.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 3.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 3.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 4.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 4.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 4.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 5.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 5.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 5.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 6.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 6.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 6.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 7.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 7.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 7.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 8.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 8.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 8.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 9.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 9.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 9.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 10.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 10.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 10.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 11.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 11.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 11.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 12.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 12.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 12.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 1.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 1.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 1.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 2.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 2.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 2.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 3.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 3.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 3.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 4.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 4.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 4.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 5.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 5.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 5.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 6.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 6.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 6.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 7.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 7.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 7.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 8.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 8.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 8.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 9.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 9.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 9.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 10.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 10.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 10.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 11.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 11.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 11.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 12.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 12.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 12.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 1.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 1.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 1.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 2.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 2.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 2.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 3.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 3.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 3.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 4.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 4.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 4.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 5.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 5.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 5.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 6.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 6.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 6.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 7.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 7.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 7.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 8.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 8.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 8.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 9.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 9.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 9.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 10.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 10.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 10.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 11.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 11.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 11.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 12.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 12.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 12.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 1.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 1.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 1.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 2.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 2.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 2.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 3.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 3.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 3.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 4.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 4.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 4.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 5.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 5.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 5.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 6.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 6.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 6.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 7.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 7.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 7.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 8.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 8.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 8.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 9.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 9.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 9.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 10.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 10.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 10.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 11.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 11.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 11.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 12.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 12.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 12.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 1.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 1.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 1.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 2.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 2.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 2.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 3.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 3.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 3.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 4.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 4.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 4.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 5.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 5.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 5.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 6.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 6.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 6.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 7.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 7.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 7.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 8.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 8.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 8.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 9.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 9.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 9.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 10.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 10.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 10.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 11.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 11.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 11.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 12.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 12.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 12.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 1.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 1.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 1.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 2.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 2.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 2.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 3.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 3.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 3.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 4.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 4.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 4.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 5.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 5.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 5.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 6.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 6.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 6.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 7.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 7.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 7.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 8.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 8.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 8.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 9.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 9.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 9.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 10.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 10.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 10.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 11.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 11.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 11.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 12.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 12.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 12.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 1.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 1.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 1.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 2.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 2.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 2.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 3.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 3.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 3.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 4.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 4.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 4.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 5.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 5.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 5.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 6.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 6.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 6.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 7.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 7.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 7.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 8.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 8.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 8.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 9.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 9.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 9.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 10.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 10.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 10.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 11.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 11.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 11.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 12.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 12.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 12.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 1.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 1.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 1.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 2.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 2.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 2.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 3.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 3.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 3.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 4.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 4.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 4.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 5.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 5.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 5.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 6.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 6.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 6.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 7.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 7.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 7.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 8.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 8.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 8.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 9.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 9.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 9.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 10.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 10.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 10.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 11.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 11.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 11.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 12.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 12.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 12.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 1.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 1.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 1.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 2.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 2.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 2.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 3.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 3.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 3.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 4.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 4.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 4.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 5.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 5.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 5.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 6.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 6.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 6.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 7.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 7.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 7.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 8.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 8.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 8.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 9.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 9.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 9.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 10.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 10.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 10.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 11.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 11.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 11.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 12.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 12.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 12.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 1.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 1.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 1.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 2.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 2.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 2.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 3.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 3.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 3.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 4.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 4.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 4.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 5.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 5.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 5.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 6.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 6.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 6.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 7.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 7.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 7.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 8.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 8.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 8.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 9.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 9.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 9.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 10.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 10.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 10.55pm Really Wild Show (200778) 11.15pm Really Wild Show (200778) 11.35pm Really Wild Show (200778) 11.55pm Really Wild Show (200778)

England back down over Five Nations

Lloyds TSB
five
nations
Championship

**TIMES TWO
CROSSWORD**



NEW TIMES CROSSWORD TITLES NOW AVAILABLE!

The Times Two Crosswords (Book 7-12-99), The Times Crosswords (Book 20 Cyclic-12-99), The Times Jumble Crosswords (Book 3) is available to Times readers for just 4 (RRP£4.99) while supplies last from The Times Bookshop.

Other places may also be available to order, with free delivery, along with any other books from The Times Bookshop.

To order simply call 0900 234 450 for credit card orders or for further details. If paying by cheque/credit please make payable to News Books/Crosswords and send to The Times Bookshop, PO Box 36, Falmouth, TR10 2XU. Delivery in 10-14 days and subject to availability.

They acted as questions were being asked in the House of Commons about the chaotic nature of English rugby administration. "The men who control English rugby have egos ten times bigger than a player's jockstrap," Denis MacShane, the Labour MP for Rotherham, said. "They are betraying the interests of the average fan."

Inspired Gough strikes vital blows

Hick, maintaining the form that he found in Sydney last Sunday, batted England through to victory with an undefeated 66 after the openers had fallen to successive balls from Zoysa, an over apart. Ranatunga missed him at extra cover on 13, just as Steve Waugh had failed to accept a chance in Sydney when he

ripped out Sri Lanka's powerful top order by taking four wickets for five runs in 21 balls, figures that told no trace of a fib.

His first wicket was the best, because the world knows Jayasuriya to be a cracking batsman. Gough offered him no room to smash through cover, as he likes, and he got increasingly agitated at his lack of progress. When he drove to Hussain at backward point, one of two men placed

—Tinie Kaluthirathura, "the stroke of an opener, was bowled out by one that nipped back at the shade as he tried to attack it. That also was the stroke of a frustrated batsman. Aluppana, who is no slouch, edged a forcing stroke of no distinction to second slip, where Hick made a sharp catch look easy. When he defeated Tillekeratne, Gough had a fourth success. It was splendid stuff.

Ranasinghe and Chandana gave the colourful Sri Lanka batsmen something to cheer at as they shared 92 runs for their sixth wicket.

The flags were unfurled, and there was plenty of good-natured noise from the lower slopes of the enormous southern stand, just the other side of the road from Melbourne Park, where the tennis players were entertaining another record crowd at the Australian Open.

Whatever sting the match had in those early stages had been drawn by the time Crawley joined Hick to score the last 70 runs. Sri Lanka have now lost all three games in this competition. Should they lose in Hobart tomorrow, and England beat them in Adelaide on Saturday, they will have travelled in vain.

SRI LANKA	
ST J Kumbayaya c Hussain b Gough	1
1R S Kumbayaya b Gough	15
20 balls, 3 fours	
1R S Kumbayaya c Hick b Gough	1
12 balls, 2 fours	
H P Thilakaratne b Gough	0
13 balls	
ED R D Jayawardene	
c Suman b Hollicombe	12
CS balls, 1 four	
A Nussington run out (Hussain/Gough)	78
UD U D Chandana c Wells b Croft	66
10 balls, 3 fours	
G P Thilakaratne b Hollicombe	8
10 balls, 1 four	
W P U C Vasee run out	11
15 balls	
D N T Jayaratne c Hussain b Mallyon	0
D N T Jayaratne run out (Esham/Mallyon)	0
Edwin (D & W)	11
10 balls, 5 fours	
Total (20 overs, 20 balls)	186
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-10 (Kumbayaya 8, 2-19 (A Nussington), 3-20 (Thilakaratne), 4-	

ga 603, 8-180 (Vas 9), 9-184 (Vas 9).
 1942: *Chrysomelids*: 10-183 (44 f. 10-183)
 10-190 (10 f. 10-190) *Chrysomelids*: 10-220 (10 f. 10-220)
 10-231 (1 f. 10-231) *Chrysomelids*: 10-231 (1 f. 10-231)
 10-244 (4 f. 10-244) *Chrysomelids*: 10-244 (1 f. 10-244)
 10-245 (1 f. 10-245) *Chrysomelids*: 10-245 (1 f. 10-245)
 10-246 (1 f. 10-246) *Chrysomelids*: 10-246 (1 f. 10-246)
 10-247 (1 f. 10-247) *Chrysomelids*: 10-247 (1 f. 10-247)
 10-248 (1 f. 10-248) *Chrysomelids*: 10-248 (1 f. 10-248)
 10-249 (1 f. 10-249) *Chrysomelids*: 10-249 (1 f. 10-249)
 10-250 (1 f. 10-250) *Chrysomelids*: 10-250 (1 f. 10-250)
 10-251 (1 f. 10-251) *Chrysomelids*: 10-251 (1 f. 10-251)
 10-252 (1 f. 10-252) *Chrysomelids*: 10-252 (1 f. 10-252)
 10-253 (1 f. 10-253) *Chrysomelids*: 10-253 (1 f. 10-253)
 10-254 (1 f. 10-254) *Chrysomelids*: 10-254 (1 f. 10-254)
 10-255 (1 f. 10-255) *Chrysomelids*: 10-255 (1 f. 10-255)
 10-256 (1 f. 10-256) *Chrysomelids*: 10-256 (1 f. 10-256)
 10-257 (1 f. 10-257) *Chrysomelids*: 10-257 (1 f. 10-257)
 10-258 (1 f. 10-258) *Chrysomelids*: 10-258 (1 f. 10-258)
 10-259 (1 f. 10-259) *Chrysomelids*: 10-259 (1 f. 10-259)
 10-260 (1 f. 10-260) *Chrysomelids*: 10-260 (1 f. 10-260)
 10-261 (1 f. 10-261) *Chrysomelids*: 10-261 (1 f. 10-261)
 10-262 (1 f. 10-262) *Chrysomelids*: 10-262 (1 f. 10-262)
 10-263 (1 f. 10-263) *Chrysomelids*: 10-263 (1 f. 10-263)
 10-264 (1 f. 10-264) *Chrysomelids*: 10-264 (1 f. 10-264)
 10-265 (1 f. 10-265) *Chrysomelids*: 10-265 (1 f. 10-265)
 10-266 (1 f. 10-266) *Chrysomelids*: 10-266 (1 f. 10-266)
 10-267 (1 f. 10-267) *Chrysomelids*: 10-267 (1 f. 10-267)
 10-268 (1 f. 10-268) *Chrysomelids*: 10-268 (1 f. 10-268)
 10-269 (1 f. 10-269) *Chrysomelids*: 10-269 (1 f. 10-269)
 10-270 (1 f. 10-270) *Chrysomelids*: 10-270 (1 f. 10-270)
 10-271 (1 f. 10-271) *Chrysomelids*: 10-271 (1 f. 10-271)
 10-272 (1 f. 10-272) *Chrysomelids*: 10-272 (1 f. 10-272)
 10-273 (1 f. 10-273) *Chrysomelids*: 10-273 (1 f. 10-273)
 10-274 (1 f. 10-274) *Chrysomelids*: 10-274 (1 f. 10-274)
 10-275 (1 f. 10-275) *Chrysomelids*: 10-275 (1 f. 10-275)
 10-276 (1 f. 10-276) *Chrysomelids*: 10-276 (1 f. 10-276)
 10-277 (1 f. 10-277) *Chrysomelids*: 10-277 (1 f. 10-277)
 10-278 (1 f. 10-278) *Chrysomelids*: 10-278 (1 f. 10-278)
 10-279 (1 f. 10-279) *Chrysomelids*: 10-279 (1 f. 10-279)
 10-280 (1 f. 10-280) *Chrysomelids*: 10-280 (1 f. 10-280)
 10-281 (1 f. 10-281) *Chrysomelids*: 10-281 (1 f. 10-281)
 10-282 (1 f. 10-282) *Chrysomelids*: 10-282 (1 f. 10-282)
 10-283 (1 f. 10-283) *Chrysomelids*: 10-283 (1 f. 10-283)
 10-284 (1 f. 10-284) *Chrysomelids*: 10-284 (1 f. 10-284)
 10-285 (1 f. 10-285) *Chrysomelids*: 10-285 (1 f. 10-285)
 10-286 (1 f. 10-286) *Chrysomelids*: 10-286 (1 f. 10-286)
 10-287 (1 f. 10-287) *Chrysomelids*: 10-287 (1 f. 10-287)
 10-288 (1 f. 10-288) *Chrysomelids*: 10-288 (1 f. 10-288)
 10-289 (1 f. 10-289) *Chrysomelids*: 10-289 (1 f. 10-289)
 10-290 (1 f. 10-290) *Chrysomelids*: 10-290 (1 f. 10-290)
 10-291 (1 f. 10-291) *Chrysomelids*: 10-291 (1 f. 10-291)
 10-292 (1 f. 10-292) *Chrysomelids*: 10-292 (1 f. 10-292)
 10-293 (1 f. 10-293) *Chrysomelids*: 10-293 (1 f. 10-293)
 10-294 (1 f. 10-294) *Chrysomelids*: 10-294 (1 f. 10-294)
 10-295 (1 f. 10-295) *Chrysomelids*: 10-295 (1 f. 10-295)
 10-296 (1 f. 10-296) *Chrysomelids*: 10-296 (1 f. 10-296)
 10-297 (1 f. 10-297) *Chrysomelids*: 10-297 (1 f. 10-297)
 10-298 (1 f. 10-298) *Chrysomelids*: 10-298 (1 f. 10-298)
 10-299 (1 f. 10-299) *Chrysomelids*: 10-299 (1 f. 10-299)
 10-300 (1 f. 10-300) *Chrysomelids*: 10-300 (1 f. 10-300)
 10-301 (1 f. 10-301) *Chrysomelids*: 10-301 (1 f. 10-301)
 10-302 (1 f. 10-302) *Chrysomelids*: 10-302 (1 f. 10-302)
 10-303 (1 f. 10-303) *Chrysomelids*: 10-303 (1 f. 10-303)
 10-304 (1 f. 10-304) *Chrysomelids*: 10-304 (1 f. 10-304)
 10-305 (1 f. 10-305) *Chrysomelids*: 10-305 (1 f. 10-305)
 10-306 (1 f. 10-306) *Chrysomelids*: 10-306 (1 f. 10-306)
 10-307 (1 f. 10-307) *Chrysomelids*: 10-307 (1 f. 10-307)
 10-308 (1 f. 10-308) *Chrysomelids*: 10-308 (1 f. 10-308)
 10-309 (1 f. 10-309) *Chrysomelids*: 10-309 (1 f. 10-309)
 10-310 (1 f. 10-310) *Chrysomelids*: 10-310 (1 f. 10-310)
 10-311 (1 f. 10-311) *Chrysomelids*: 10-311 (1 f. 10-311)
 10-312 (1 f. 10-312) *Chrysomelids*: 10-312 (1 f. 10-312)
 10-313 (1 f. 10-313) *Chrysomelids*: 10-313 (1 f. 10-313)
 10-314 (1 f. 10-314) *Chrysomelids*: 10-314 (1 f. 10-314)
 10-315 (1 f. 10-315) *Chrysomelids*: 10-315 (1 f. 10-315)
 10-316 (1 f. 10-316) *Chrysomelids*: 10-316 (1 f. 10-316)
 10-317 (1 f. 10-317) *Chrysomelids*: 10-317 (1 f.

[illegible]

The flags were unfurled, and there was plenty of good-natured noise from the lower slopes of the enormous southern stand, just the other side of the road from Melbourne Park, where the tennis players were entertaining another record crowd at the Australian Open.

Whatever sting the match had in those early stages had been drawn by the time Crawley joined Hick to score the last 70 runs. Sri Lanka have now lost all three games in this competition. Should they lose in Hobart tomorrow, and England beat them in Adelaide on Saturday, they will

Courier's outburst fans flames of Korda case

Muster was also critical of the ATP Tour's efforts to explain the Korda case to players last week. Korda escaped a one-year ban when an appeals committee found that "exceptional circumstan-

However, ATP Tour officials, Miles among them, were woefully inadequate in their explanations. Players remain under the misapprehension that there are exceptional circumstances about which they are still not aware. There are none, yet players believe that details have been withheld. The point was amplified by Rusedski, who said: "It is difficult for the players when they don't know what the exceptional circumstances were. We are out in the dark."

Courier, who ventured on Monday that all players should be banned for steroid use, broadened his horizons on the doping issue yesterday. "I'm much more inclined to have a concern ... for blood doping," he said. "It's certainly prevalent in European sports."

Di Canio demands rejected

PAOLO DI CANIO, Sheffield Wednesday's Italian forward, has been passed fit to play again but the club are refusing to bow to all his demands. Di Canio, 30, who says he has been suffering from stress and depression, claimed through his representative, Moreno Roggi, that he would not be fit to return until January 31 at the earliest. But two independent doctors, who saw Di Canio last Friday in his home town of Terni, have said that there is nothing to stop him resuming his career.

Di Canio was fined £68,000 by the club after his sending-off against Arsenal on September 26, when he shoved the referee, Paul Alcock.

The Football Association then imposed an 11-week ban on him, since December 12. Wednesday have continued to refuse him for each week he stayed in Italy. Unless he returns before Saturday, these fines will have reached £102,000.

A club statement yesterday said: "We are reassured the player is now fit to return to England. He has continued to train regularly during his absence and is well enough to commence training and play, if selected. However, the club does not believe it should agree to meet all of the conditions requested prior to the player's return to England. "In view of this we have today requested him to return ... and suggested that the outstanding difficulty should be surmounted by the appropriate tribunal, unless a compromise can be reached."

MORSE

Getting any business started with e-commerce applications requires the skills and support of more than one company. This is why Sun Microsystems has forged alliances with leading e-commerce organisations to help its customers.



-comm
Piecing it

Morse is proud to be one of Sun's partners. With first hand experience of putting our own e-commerce systems in place, we have much to offer.

To find out more about this,
and why Morse is Sun's largest
partner in Europe, please visit:
www.morse.com



Sun
MICROSYSTEMS

Korda: sparked controversy

Rusedski survives, page 40

